

Newspaper of the Year for photographs

End of the male breadwinner

By Anthony Bevins and Diane Coyle

MINISTERS are to break one of the most patronising foundation stones of the welfare state, the idea of the male "hreadwinner", by giving unemployed partners equality in the

With the Cabinet due to approve the Green Paper on welfare perform vital, unpaid service'." reform today, for publication next week, Harriet Harman, the Secretary of State for Social Security, put the new drive for equality into context last night when she told a conference

granted in the 1990s.

"In the days of Attlee and Beveridge, male employment was the norm. When Beveridge set out his plans for the welfare state, he did so on the basis that most women gave up 'gainful occupation' when they got married and undertook instead 'to

Ms Harman quoted the Beveridge view: "In the next 30 years, housewives and mothers have vital work to do in ensuring the adequate continuance of the British race."

post-war society cannot be taken for Our goal is employability for men and women."

> Yesterday, on the markets, the pound soared to a nine-year high in reaction to the Budget - to the horror of exporters. The financial markets concluded that the Chancellor had left it to the Bank of England to steer the economy by raising interest rates again, and sent the level of sterling up in anticipation of this move. Figures suggesting the decline shrugged off.

Mr Brown insisted that he had done enough to squeeze growth, say-

fiscal policy with £17bn being taken ployed men - in the New Deal pro- work." "I don't think anyone can say that's anything other than a tough stance,"

If the currency markets reflected disappointment with the Budget, investors expressed their delight by taking share prices to a new record. The FISE-100 index climbed 69 points to 5,903.6.

The first step toward equality for in unemployment is slowing were the female breadwinner was taken by Gordon Brown in Tuesday's Budget, with a little-noticed decisioo to

out of the economy over two years. gramme, under which people refusing job or training offers face henefit penalties.

But the Chancellor also announced that an estimated 250,000 predominantly female partners of unemployed Jobseeker's Allowance claimants, 95 per ceot of whom are system was that "partners of unemmale "breadwinners", are to be of- ployed people cannot or do not want fered their first chance of joining the welfare-to-work programmes.

Mr Brown has allocated £60m from the windfall tax to ensure that all over-25 unemployed "partners"

"Key factors taken for granted in ters at any rate, we have moved on, ing his measures added up to a tough less, under 25 partners of unem- the help they need to get back to sic benefit policy on such a notion

That view was reflected in this week's pre-Budget report on The Modernisation of Britain's Tax and Benefit System by Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays Bank, who implicit presumption of the benefits to work".

over from the days when it was assumed that all men worked and their for those on low incomes. wives did not. Today, when 47 per of unemployed claimants "receive cent of employees are women, ba-

is, to say the least, inappropriate." The Chancellor's announcement on opportunities for the unemployed partners of unemployed claimants - urged by Mr Taylor - was the first step in cracking that inbuilt

There was a broad welcome for the detailed Budget measures to encourage small businesses and investment. Mr Brown also won praise "The existing rules seem to be left for the reforms to tax and benefits designed to make sure that work pays

> Budget Aftermath, pages 6 & 7; City and Business, page 23

NHS waiting lists to be cut by 100,000 within a year

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

. HOSPITAL waiting lists will be cut by 100,000 within a year, the blggest reduction in the histosaid yesterday.

The pledge, which will be difficult to achieve, will mean the biggest-ever increase in the number of operations, and will require hospitals to carry out surgery seven days a week. The



On the line: Frank Dobson

drive could also trigger a politically embarrassing boom for the private sector in areas where the health service cannot cope.

Throwing down the gaundet to the NHS and putting his political future on the line. Mr Dobson said £320m of the extra £500m for the NHS announced in Tuesday's budget would be devoted to cutting waiting lists in England which at the last count in December topped 1.26 mililion, 100,000 higher than at the election, and rising.

"By April next year, I expect hospital waiting lists in England p be shorter than the 1.16 millino record level we inherited from the previous government.

of Labour's five key election oledges - to cut waiting lists by 100,000 below the level at which they stood at the time of the election in May last year. It ry of the NHS. Frank Dobson, would be achieved by a mixture Secretary of State for Health, of carrot and stick, Mr Dobson said. "There will be rewards for [health authorities and trusts] who meet their targets and sanctions for those who do not."

go half way towards meeting one

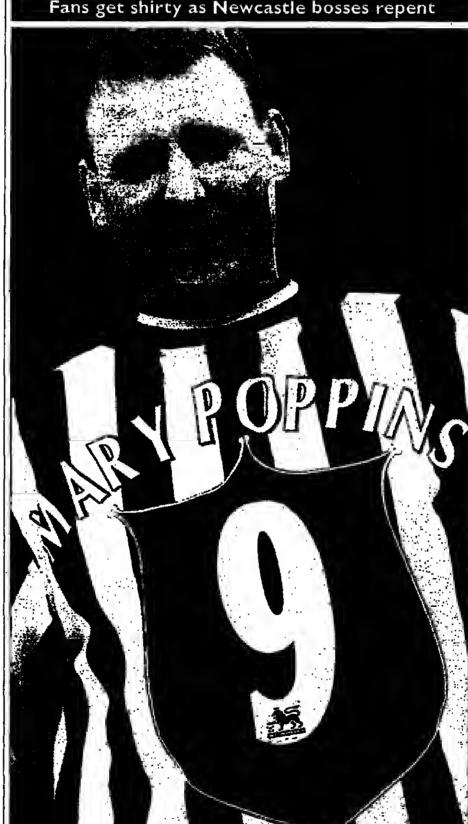
The NHS Confederation said the extra money was welcome hut solved only part of the problem. The other part was finding the spare capacity in an already overstretched NHS.

Stephen Thornton, chief executive, said: "I would imagice a oumber of health authorities will find the best way to get the lists down will be to commission work in the private sector ... We have got to be careful to get value for money because in the mad rush for operations prices could rise."

Mr Thornton said that. viewed strictly in terms of health gain, spending to cut waiting lists was probably not the best use to which the money could be put. "But the government has come in with a political imperative to cut waiting lists. That is the political reality and we are

nnt complaining about it." The British Medical Association said a focus on waiting lists could mean that patients with minnr conditions were treated sooner than those with more urgent ones.

James Johnson, chairman of the BMA's consultants committee, said: "We do not want to see people waiting unacceptably long times in pain and distress. But we want a broader, more sophisticated look at the problem than simply taking patients off Delivering this target would the end of the queue."



United in anger: Newcastle fan Stephen Cockburn showing off the shirt he was planning to wear to last night's match against Crystal Palace Soccer shame, page 3 Photograph: Will Walker

Skull discovery shows that birds are descended from dinosaurs

By Charles Arthur Science Editor

TWO KEY pieces of evidence have emerged indicating that birds really are descended from dinosaurs.

The discovery of skulls of animals about the size of turkeys which lived 70 million years ago in what is now the Gobi Desert provided one key; the other was in Madagascar, where archaeologists found a 65-million-year old fossil of a raven-sized bird with dinosaur-

like features. Although the public has generally thought that fossil skeletons such as the famous Archaeopteryx, a 140-millionyear old "dinosaur with wings", provided incontrovertible proof that birds evolved from dinosaurs, palaeontologists have been less sure.

In recent years, they have suggested that birds and dinosaurs evolved separately;

chaeopteryx, might have been later disappeared. Meanwhile. the warm-blooded ancestors of birds would have evolved separately, surviving the "dinosaur killer" asteroid which hit the Karth 65 million years ago to become the feathered animals

we know today. But the findings in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia were of turkey-sized animals which walked on two legs, and had a number of bird-like features. Yet they also had dinosaur features: long necks and tails, and - nolike any bird living today - stubby forearms that end-

ed in a single, blunt claw. Reporting today in the science journal Nature, Luis Chiappe and researchers from the fore seen, including wing bones American Museum of Natural Washington University, Washington DC, say the fossils re- such features in meat-eating

and that the cold-blooded Ar- characteristic normally seen only in birds. The animals were an accident of evolution that capable of "prokinesis" - the movement of the snont up and down independently from the rest of the skull. This allowed the creature to open its month wide to eat large food items, and is considered an advanced characteristic of birds. "These strange creatures were actually early birds," the team said.

That in itself suggests that such an ability arose early in bird evolution - and that it bappened in the time of the di-

The second plank of evidence is reported tomorrow in the journal Science. A team led by Catherine Forster of the State University of New York found fossifs of a type never beof a bird, but also a long tail History, New York, and Gorge and "a huge, sickle-shaped killing claw" that resemble vealed an important physical theropod disosaurs.

Today's news

Genetics in a can

A GOVERNMENT panel is today expected to approve a genetically engineered versioo of tinned tomatoes. Page 3

Regional aid loss

SOME OF the poorest regions in the UK reacted with dismay yesterday at the prospect of losing hundreds of millions of pounds in a shake up of the EU Page 12 aid programme.

lail beatings

REPORTS that immates at a jail have been systematically beaten by a group of about 20 prison officers are to be investigated in a major inquiry. Page 2

Cook's tour SHRUGGING off his appareot snub by Beojamin Netanyahu, Robin Cook has been trying to build confidence with

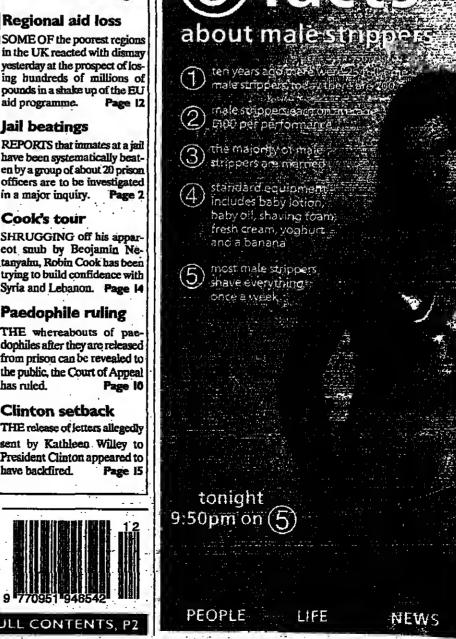
Paedophile ruling

dophiles after they are released from prison can be revealed to the public, the Court of Appeal has ruled. Page 10

Clinton setback

THE release of letters allegedly sent by Kathleen Willey to President Clinton appeared to have backfired. Page 15





Britain's radioactive lobsters upset Norway

By Fran Abrams

Political Correspondent

NUCLEAR waste from Sellafield is polluting Scandinavian lobsters, shrimps and mussels 500 miles away. Nordic ministers have old the British government. In an official complaint to

Michael Meacher, the environment minister, they say human ealth and the environment uld be at risk from a 50-fold increase in some discharges over just four years.

Their joiot demand for cuts in discharges, already rejected

complaints from the Irish government. It also follows a cull last month of seaguils and pigeons in the Sellafield area after their droppings were found to be radioactive.

Some of the heaviest concentrations found during investigations by the Norwegian Radiological Protection Board were in the claw and tail musele of lobsters, parts which are usually eaten. However, much higher levels of radiation are allowed in British seafood. The details were revealed in

Blaenau Gwent, who has beeo campaigning oo the issue. Anna Lindh, chair of the

Nordie Council of Environment Ministers and envirooment minister for Swedeo, told Mr Meacher in a formal letter that the discharges were polluting some of the world's most valuable fishing grouods. Changes under coosultation to Britain could result in even higher discharge levels from Sellafield, she said.

According to the Norwe-

to Liew Smith, Labour MP for a substance called Technetium-99 have increased to 50 times their 1994 level, while remaining well inside British safety lev-

cls. In the early 1990s, the waste

was held back while a new processing plant was completed. Ms Lindh's letter called for the discharges to be stopped. "The Nordic countries will closely follow the development of this issue," it said. Mr Meacher replied that the

discharges were not radiologically

significant either to humans or

by Mr Meacher, follows similar a writteo Parliamentary answer gian report, liquid discharges of changes would actually lead to a cut in the levels rather than an increase, he said. "I share the concern of the Nordic countries for protection

of the marine environment. While I appreciate that the detection of any levels of radioactivity can give rise to concern. and there is never room for complacency, it is important to consider the radiological impact. The UK is rigorous in adhering to all of the international commitments which it enters into in the field of environmental rato other species. The proposed dioactivity," he said.

INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 • CROSSWORDS, P32 AND EYE P10 • TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 • FULL CONTENTS, P2

Public rail firm mooted by MPs

By Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT should consider taking a stake in Railtrack if it fails to deliver a modern and efficient railway system, according to a report by a powerful all-party committee

The remarkable conclusion was pushed by the 11 Labour members of the committee and accepted reluctantly by the four Tory MPs on the transport select committee.

Nationalisation of Railtrack. the company that owns the nation's stations and tracks, remains an aim for many of the Labour faithful.

Taking stake in the company was also proposed wheo senior executives met ministers to discuss the privatisation of the Tube. The idea was in return for a shareholding. Railtrack would ioject capital into the network - but the scheme was rejected.

The report also proposed a radical reform of the way the privatised railways are regulated to give passengers more power, better services and safer trains.

It concluded that the sell-off of the uld nationalised system was a disappointment. "It is clear that the privatised passenger railway has not yet performed significantly better than British Rail," the committee

"We are disappointed that the train operators' performance has shown no general improvement over the last year, and on half of routes has actually declined.

A safety authority should be set up to oversee the scrapping of old, slam-door trains and the introduction of new train safety measures, said the committee. Passenger watchdog groups should be made much more powerful and have at least one representative on the Government's proposed Strategic Rail Authority.

But Eric Pickles, the Tory leader on the committee, preferred to concentrate oo the "successes" of private operators adding: "I his has seen a l passeoger oumbers."

Carey's flight of fancy takes him closer to the heavens



High-flyer: The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, taking to the sides in a Harrier jump jet during a visit to RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire, yesterday. Travelling at up to 500mph, the Archbishop, who is head of RAF chaptains, flew an hour's sortle across Britain

Prison officers accused of brutality and racial abuse

By Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

REPORTS that inmates at a jail have been systematically and brutally beaten by a group of about 20 prisoo officers are to be investigated in a major inquiry, it was announced yes-

Officers at Wormwood Scrubs jail, west London, are also accused of racially abusing black immates in one of the most serious set of allegations to be levelled against prison staff for

aonounced a investigation into the "very serious" charges.

solicitors representing 11 prisoners is a statement by a man oo remand awaiting trial, which reads: "One of the officers

of my right ear I was taken to the bospital." claims: "They threw me on the The Prison Service yesterday case, officers are alleged to would say the allegations in that at the west London fail. He not Prison Officers Association,

> have grabbed an immate by the throat and kicked and beat him

tained in a dossier compiled by mate said he was handcuffed and kicked. A total of eight prisoners,

five of whom are black, have made allegations of assaults, and stamped on my head and I a further three have given witblacked out. When the officer ness statements, More than 20 who had takeo me to the block officers have been accused of saw that blood was coming out brutality. A spokesman for the solicitors, Hickman and Rose, said they expected more inmates Another convicted inmate to come forward. Daniel Machover, partner in the firm, ground and flung my head on said one prisoner claimed he the wall. There was about 10 had been beaten up by staff alminutes of beating." In a third most every day for a month. "I about the "illegal use of force"

Among the allegations coo- until he urinated. A fourth in- back to October 1996 up until Monday, All those complaining are still in jail

Mr Machover said one of his clients beld in Wormwood Scribs appeared in court with serious injuries apparently sustained in the prison at the weekend.

. The Prison Service set up the inquiry two days after the solionors connected Sir David

The alleged assaults date port this divine the inspection erate with the inquiry.

but we are left with the question why such a strong rumour should be passed around." He also said he was "surprised and borrified" by conditions there, and he found "outdated staff attitudes to be prevailing everywhere, appearing to resis

change at every turn". Tony Pearson, Prison Service deputy director-general, said: "I have instructed a senior and experienced governor from outside of the region to findertake a full inquiry into whether the alloisoneis Agations can be substantianed."

Mark Healy, chamman of the

Blood alert for hospital

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

chiefs

ALL HOSPITALS are being asked to review their procedures for handling blood after a study revealed 169 cases in which errors had been made, putting patients at risk.

In 12 cases, patients died and in a further 39 suffered serious injury requiring treatment in intensive care or dialysis for kidoey failure.

The findings are cootained in the first annual report by the Serious Hazards of Transfusion group (Shot) set up by professional groups independently of the National Blood Service to monitor the safety of blood transfusion

About 3 million blood transfusions are carried out each year, the vast majority without problems, but wheo problems do occur they tend to follow a pattern, the Shot committee said. The commonest error, accounting for almost half the cases, was a mix-up in which blood intended for one patient was given to another. Blood for transfusions has to be carefully matched to avoid triggering a serious reactioo.

There have been a series of scares about the safety of blood for transfusioo in the UK involving fears about possible contamination and transmission of viruses including HIV and hepatitis. The results of the Shot study revealed three cases of bacterial contamination one because the donor's arm had not been properly cleaned and five in which an infectioo was transmitted; hepatitis A, B and C, HIV and malaria.

Three of the infections, including that with HIV, occurred as a result of donations during the "window" period - after the donor had been infected but be-

fore it showed up in routine tests. Dr Loma Williamson, chair of the Shot working group, said new tests were being developed to reduce the window period during which infections were undetectable. "We are dealing with very rare events but

32-pages of film and music in THEEYE

Quentin Tarantino and The Man From UNCLE

Bob Hoskins, down and out in Twentyfourseven

PPArnold: from lkette to soul survivor

Single mothers: Hollywood's latest superstars



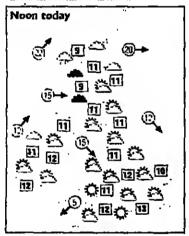
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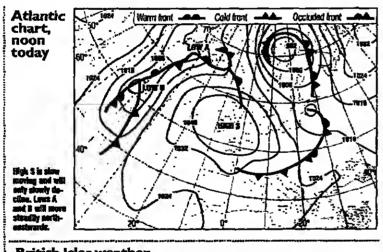
The Eye, 10



WEATHER



Northern Scotland will be mostly cloudy and grey with some occasional rain and drizzle. Southern Scotland and Northern Ireland should stay dry and mild with a little sunshine stouts say any and must after shear while, to the east of high ground. Meanwhile, England and Wales will be fine and settled again with any early fog soon litting to leave banks of cloud and some good suriny spells, especially away from North Sea coasts where the sunchine will be rather hazy. It will be mild everywhere for March with the highest temperatures in southern England.



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World weather and non-sealth for a non-local free **HARTSTON** WEATHER WISE

> OUR weather in the second half of this week is being dominat- the compression energy is coned by an anti-cyclone (high pressure area) that yesterday process known as adiahatic settled directly above Britain. In the summer, we often think of fine weather, but at other times fine, sunny summer days -

ier air, and there are two main 'istic.

things that can bring that aboot. First, cold air is denser than specific gravity of water vapour dry air, or both.

important process involved with warming effect. In a summer anti-cyclooe, air is piled up in the troposphere by high altitude winds. As the air descends, it is compressed by the pressure of the air above it, and it warms as verted to heat. (This is the warming.) Under such cooditions, clouds teod to disappear upper, cold air makes occasional High pressure means heav- .. thunderstorms also character-

In summer, high pressure ateas are usually formed of marwarm air, and secood, dry air is itime tropical or continental beavier than damp air (since the tropical air. The winter anticyclone is a different beast, more is only about two-thirds that of likely resulting from continenair). So an area of high pressure tal polar wind. Its cooling effect. may correspond to cold air, or . can easily lead to cloud and fog.

Yesterday, in the South-east, This doesn't sound like a we saw a heantifully clear and recipe for guaranteed fine bright morning, but hy weather, hut there is another lunchtime the sky had completely clouded over. This is anticyclooes that does have a again quite typical of some sorts of anticyclonic weather What happens is that turbulence near ground level, caused by the land being warmed by the sun, and the air at ground level being warmed by the land and rising, lifts moist air high enough to condense and form cloud. . u

The main characteristic of !! high pressure, however, at what-in ever time of year, is its tendeohigh pressure as a portent of as the air warms, resulting in cy to lead to stable weather d. conditions. High pressure areas, # of year, the situation is far less though the chilling effect of the consisting of heavy air, are more difficult to bodge than their flimsy low pressured

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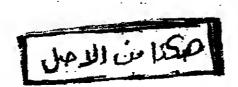
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Experts approve genetically altered tomatoes

By Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

GENETICALLY engineered tomatoes are today expected to be approved by government experts for

Tinned tomatoes are Britain's top-selling canned food and the leading UK drugs and seeds group Zeneca is seeking Europe-wide approval for marketing a range of tinned tomato products using GMO its "own label" groceries. genetically modified organism -

expert committee is the first step. Canned tomatoes, are an essen-

tial ingredient in millions of British kitchens. We eat 230,000 tons of them, worth some £160m, a year. The Advisory Committee on

Novel Foods and Processes will consider Zeneca's hid the day after the frozen food chain Iceland announced that from 1 May it would use no GMO-derived ingredients in

GMO products are made by tak-

ganism and transferring it into another. They are found in more and more of the food on supermarket shelves. Iceland wants to be known as the only big food retailer offering consumers a choice.

The advisory committee has already considered Zeneca's application in detail, and will have a final report today. The GMO tomato, so far grown only in California, is already on sale as purée, sold by Safe- seeds. The geoe that confers it Zeneca's argument that its canned. To market a GMO food in tory affairs manager.

belled as coming from GMO fruit. is cheaper than ordinary kinds.

The long-life Zeneca tomato, known as TGI7-F, stays firm for longer after ripening, both on the stalk and after being picked. That makes it more resistant to moulds and better suited for highly mechanised farming and food processing.

The new property is passed from

from one plant, animal or micro-or- en half the market. The purée, la- that plays a key role in making ripe - tritious as the ordinary kind. It has tomatoes go mushy.

gene conferring resistance to an an- sistance. tibiotic, kanamycin. Then the collection of genes was permanently canned tomatoes in the European

mittee of 16 experts, mostly univer- ern nations such as Spain. It has apgeneration to generation through the sity professors, has accepted plied for the necessary EU approval.

tomatoes. Its application to a British ing DNA, the hereditary chemical, way and Sainsbury, where it has tak-blocks the production of an enzyme tomatoes will be just as safe and nuheard evidence that the intense heat The geoe, a synthetic copy of a used in peeling and then sterilising normal tomato gene, was attached GMO tomatoes kills any seeds and to some bacterial DNA including a effectively destroys the antibiotic re-

> Zeneca said it would sell GMO stitched into the tomato's own DNA. Union only if it was allowed to grow The Government's advisory com- them on the continent too, in south-

Britain. That approval then applies across the EU, provided no other nations raise safety doubts which can be made to stick.

Zeneca says it will insist that the labels on the cans of tomato declare to be very open about this, to ensure we bring people along with us," said Nigel Poole, the company's regula-



Political streetfighter who gets his retaliation in first

IN THE NEWS

BENJAMIN **NETANYAHU**

NOBODY IS quicker at spotting a tactical advantage. "Get your retaliation in first", runs the old Ulster political adage of which Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, would approve, writes Patrick Cockburn in Jerusalem.

This explains the Israeli leader's explosive response when Robin Cook shock the hand of a well-known Palestinian during a visit to the Israeli settlement at Har Homa, called by Palestinians Jebel Abu Ghneim, in south-east Jerusalem. He said Britain had broken its promise that there would be no contact with Palestinians in relation to that place".

The incident was typical. First of all, his claim was fairly demonstrably untrue. David Manning, the British ambassador, patiently explained that he had reached no prior agreement with Israel on who Mr Cook should shake hands with,

But the Israeli leader's purpose in manufacturing a confrontation with Mr Cook was clear. The US is on the verge of launching an initiative to revive the peace process. By opening fire on Mr Cook, who spoke warmly of the coming US proposals, Mr Netanyahu was sending a message that he will resist American pressure for an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

It is by such manocuvres that Mr Netanyahu made himself first leader of the tactician. He has a relentless will to win.

"That is what counts," said Nahum Barnea, an Israeli columnist, "the hunger. The willingness to wage war, get dirty, to stick to the goals wholeheartedly".

Born in Israel in 1949, Mr Netanyahu comes from a family on the far right. His father Bentzion Netanyahu, a historian of the Spanish Inquisition, went into self-imposed exile in the US because be believed

Sara; Mr Neranyaho's third wife (below). has had a for to purup with in 1993, durship of the Likuti Parry, her husband appeared

on TV to confess to political oppone blackmail him by re-

for burning the soup...

Instead, he waited. Palestinian bombs exploded on buses. Mr Netanyahu united the disparate forces of the Right, from newly-arrived Russian immigrants to the blackcoated ultra-Orthodox. He was also. favoured by his opponent's visible con-tempt for his abilities. On election night he won by a few thousand votes.

US CONNECTION

At one time, President Clinton was said to be refusing to take calls from the Israeli Prime Minister. Mr. Netanyaho said the White House thought there were two Saddam Husseins in the Middle East one in frag and the other, himself, in Israel, But he has strong support in the US media and Netanyahir and modern Israel, If Mr. probably rightly, that he can thwart any US tion immediately, he would have won... the Oslo accords with the Palestinans,

propriate academic job. From school in Philadelphia, and later Harvard University, Benjamin returned to Israel for his military service, during which he became a commando. The impetus for his political career came when his brother Jonathan was killed in the Entebbe raid in 1976, rescuing hostages from a hijacked plane.

After a brief stint marketing furniture, Mr Netanyahu was sent to the Israeli embassy in Washington. During the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 he began to show Israeli right and then Prime Minister of his expertise as a propagandist. Promoted Israel in 1996. But he is more than an able to be Israeli ambassador to the UN, he appeared on American television so often that a poll showed many Americans thought be was their own UN representative.

After returning to Israel he fought a fierce campaign to become leader of the right-wing Likud Party in 1993. Three years death blow to any other politician. He had. whipped up opposition to the 1993 Oslo Accords with the Palestinians by attacks

00 Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister. When Mr Rabin was assassingted in 1995 his widow Leah refused to shake hands with Mr Netanyahu.

A quick election after the assassination might have finished him. Instead, his opponents waited. In 1996 he became Prime Minister by a few thousand votes. His election provoked a debate in Israel and across the world about his political character. Was he an ideologue or a pragmatist? The answer, which should have been evident from his writings, is that he is an ideological man of great practical intelligence and flexibility.

Ostensibly, he supports the Israeli-Palestinian Oslo accords. In practice he has largely refused to implement them. He is always prepared to talk while Israeli settlements continue to be established in the West Bank. He believes, perhaps rightly, that if he shows himself combative enough later he survived what might have been the he can strangle any peace initiative in its cradle. Hence his reaction to Mr Cook's

Cook's tour, page 14

Football chiefs who behaved badly grovel to the people of Newcastle

By Steve Boggan

TWO Newcastle Football Club directors who called women of the North-east "dogs", boasted of whoring their way around the world, and mocked their fans for buying replica kits at inflated prices, made a grovelling apology yesterday.

Club chairman Freddy Shepherd and vice-chairman Douglas Hall, said their comments, published in the News of the World, were "totally out of character". the better part of valour, they stayed away from last night's Lome match against Crystal Palace, arguing that their presence would be a "distraction".

The meo said they were taking legal advice over suing the newspaper, which recorded their comments at a brothel in Marbella, but its editor, Phil Hall, said any attempt to sue would High Court case in years".



But, deciding that discretion was Brought into disrepute: Freddy Shepherd and Douglas Hall

In the North-east, many fans money they made from merhad expected the statement to be more of a denial than an apology. The fact that it was not was expected to lead to nicknamed him "Mary Popdemonstrations at at last night's

The club has been in turmoil since the publication of the men's comments on Sunday.



chandising and of bow they found their star striker Alan Shearer so boring that they

Anger among fans manifested itself in the form of sarcasm last night as 40,000 Geordies used humour to get "result in the most spectacular They boasted of hiring prosti- their message across. During the tutes, of the vast sums of match, thousands of supporters

planned to throw their replica by that newspaper and the way jerseys on to the pitch, women were preparing to bark instead of cheer, and the fans planning to keep their shirts on had replaced the name-tag "Shearer"

with "Poppins".

The directors' statement claimed the newspaper had "sensationalised" their comments during a meeting which it had set up, something the editor denied. It went on: "Douglas Hall and Freddy Shepherd sincerely apologise for any offence that has been caused to members of their families, the fans of Newcastle United, the people of the North-east and their fellow directors. They particularly apologise to the women of the North-east.

Whilst their behaviour has been called into question by the News of the World, they in turn are entitled to a full explanation from the News of the World con-

in which it was then reported."

Phil Hall said no "set-up" was involved. He said the newspaper simply received a tip-off about the men's behaviour and the likely location. A reporter was dispatched and secret video and audin tapes were made.

"This isn't a proper apology," he said, "It sounds more as if they feel sorry for themselves instead of the fans who they've been ripping aff." He said the newspaper was planning to follow up the story with revelations that would "blow the lid off Newcastle" on Sunday.

More than 90 per cent of callers to a Newcastle radio phone-in said the men should resign. But Newcastle United plc said it would be inappropriate to take action until the legal position was clarified. Adidas, which makes Newcastle's replica jerseys, denied that they are made cerning the way in which the abroad for £5 and sold on at £50. meeting was dishonestly set up They were made in the UK for

Issue 2 Bring your computer to life! In the cultient issue of Computeractive you'll find easy-to-understand articles providing practical advice on perlong up your PC, buying a: packet completer and the best of the internet. Plus 101 other 144 to bring your computer to Get your copy foday!

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Exquisite books and manuscripts should stay put, say peers

A GROUP of peers and lead- Resplendent with brass rail- moving the collection from its ing arts figures is fighting to prevent a collection of early printed pooks and manuscripts bemeathed to the British Library to be one of the finest library rooms in the world. ije new St Pancras building,

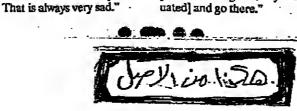
Crites Clare Garner. Since 1829, the collection has fren housed in the King's Lipose by Sir Robert Smirke. British Library is intent on re-

ings, glazed bookcases and oak original home. It has already flooring inlaid with mabogany, the 300ft gallery is considered

A statement from the British Library insists the transfer is "in The King's Library comaccordance with the terms of the prises 65,250 books and 20,000 pamphlets, as well as more than gift". The statement continues: 400 manuscripts and one of the "In the new building, the King's ary, a magnificent room world's earliest collections of Library will be housed in the maps, globes and fossils. The best possible conditions for its preservation and use."

However, campaigners feel that the glass tower in which the shifted one tenth of the collecbooks are soon to be housed will tion to St Pancras and plans to not do the collection justice and complete the transfer by 3 April. are pressing for a debate in parliament, Lord Norwich, a broadcaster and author, said is an extraordinary building and an extraordinary institution. Two things which were made for each other will be separated.

es exhibitions on architecture and urban planning and is coordinating the campaign, said: "We don't just dismantle our history every 200 years just because a new hullding comes yesterday: "The King's Library along Furthermore, we now live in the age of computers. People can easily find out if a book's in the British Museum [where the King's Library is situated] and go there."



Students staying at home to save money

By Judith Judd Education Edition

ONE IN six students would have been unlikely to go to uoiversity if they had been required to pay tuition fees, says a survey published today.

Among students from poorer families, the proportion rose to more than a quarter.

Students will have to pay £1,000 a year tuition fees towards the cost of their courses from September.

While applications overall are down by 2.9 per cent, new figures in The Independent's "Education+" show there have been clear winners and losers in the applications race. Some universities have seen them increase by nearly 40 per cent while others are facing a fall of

Those with the biggest in-

creases are Thames Valley University, Bath, Huddersfield, Staffordshire, Lancaster, University of the West of England and Bristol.

The biggest losers are East Anglia, Dundee, Abertay, Nottingham Trent, Plymouth and the private university of Buck-

While there is little pattern in the application trends, universities in more isolated spots such as Exeter and East Anglia, tend to have fared badly. That suggests that more students may be deciding to live at home to save money.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service is investigating the findings. Applications to London col-

leges and its new universities are holding up well despite the high cost of living in the cap-

continui

dents asked if they would have takeo up their courses if they had been liable for fees. Among students from lower-income families receiving means-tested maintenance grants 26 per cent said they would either "definitely not" or would have

been unlikely to do so. Students were also asked if they would have gone in university if they had thought that they would leave college with dehts of £10,000 or more. Because grants are being phased out alongside the introduction of fees, that is the size of the debt to be expected by students from poorer families. Around 40 per cent said that they would have been at least "unlikely" to

take up their courses. Researchers also questioned students about their lifestyle. The survey of 6,349 final-year

and toll

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run ads saying they can save your business more

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discounts and will compare their best pates were

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The survey of final-year stu-students at 19 top universities by High Fliers Research, a student and graduate market research company, shows that students have an impressive array of technological equipment.

More than half has a television, one in four has a video and nne in three a personal computer. One in six has a mohile phone and one in six a games machine. Two-thirds thought that cannabis was an acceptable drug for personal

However, the students who are all at universities demanding high entry qualifications including Oxford and Cambridge - have lowbrow tastes in television programmes. Their favourite television shows are EastEnders,



The Simpsons and Shooting Purse strings: Mary Shittu, left, and Jumoke Oyadare decided to study in London to save money Photograph: Rul Xavier

When the price of a degree is cheapest option

By Ben Russell Education Correspondent

LIVING at home is the norm for undergraduates at the University of North London, where the high cost of living tests stu-

dent finances to the limit, Student leaders estimate it costs at least £6,000 to live within reach of the university's Islington campus, even before the introduction of £1,000 a year tuition fees.

Aidan McDooald, the student union president, moved to the university from Birmingham, but said many others simply could not afford to study without help at home from their families. He estimates that up to 70 per cent of students at the university live at home. "Living at home will save students thousands of pounds because it costs £2,000 year to live in a hall of residence, but there are many more savings," he said.

When people make the decision to come to college the cost of living is one of the key factors. When I came I had to be sure that I had a joh and was financially stable."

Mr McDooald said fees would affect students, but there . the life."

was more concern over the: loss of maintenance graots, which would hit the large mature student population.

In the library, students working for their summer exams acknowledged that the cost of living in Londoo was a big. problem. Many said the financial burden of living in the capital might have put them off. university educatioo. But they insisted that living at home did have its compensations.

Dwarfing the """

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Helpful Harmer

Jumoke Oyadare, a secondyear marketing and business student, said: "I live at home.". because it's cheap. And it's a lot easier to be at home. I concentrate better and I study better."

Andrew Prophet, also study ing marketing and husiness. lives with his family in Morden. south-west Loodon. "I would have moved away if I could, but it's not worth it." he said. "All you have to pay for if yoo live at home is your transport."

Deema Bharkhda, a thirdyear law student, moved away. from Leicester to study in London, despite the cost, "I wanted a change," she said. "London was one of the places which excited me. It is very expensive hut it is worth it for

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THE BUDGET was painless, so Pandora heads to Bond Street, First stop: Asprey. A report in a New York tabloid yesterday claimed that an Asprey executive had said something rude ("she's rather fat and dishevelled") about Kate Winslet and the \$3.5m Couer de la Mer necklace which the jeweller designed for the film *Titanic*. The notion that Asprey wasn't keeo to have our Kate wear the sapphire and diamond trinket to the Academy Awards on Monday was "absolutely completely unfounded ... utter rubbish" according to the store. "We first offered it to Kate Winslet to wear to the Oscars, but she declined." So the necklace will be worn by Celine Dion when she sings at the awards. Unless it is sold at the "Princess Ball" charity auction this Saturday in Beverly Hills and the new owner opts to wear it.

Going for a Ong

THE Queen of Bond Street, Christina Ong, is a shy Singaporean lady with impeccable taste in brand names. She is the wife of a secretive Singaporean billionaire named Ong Beng Seng. Whereas most wealthy ladies go



shopping for glamorous fashions, Christina has been able to buy up the entire UK franchises of top designers such as Giorgio Armani, Donna Karan, Prada and Guess, as well as Bulgari, the jewellers. Thanks to their successes,

Christina and BS have gone on to build the trendiest new hotel in London, the Metropolitan on Park Lane, as well as the Halkin in Mayfair. "BS Ong" is also the largest Hard Rock fran-

chisee. But times change and economic woes in the Far East have led to the Ongs divesting. In January, the Telegraph reported that Ong had sold an Austrian hotel, a Guifstream jet and a Bulgari jewellery shop and was looking to sell his stake in Branson's Virgin Entertainment Group. Now Pandora has learnt that he has sold his 50 per cent of the Four Seasons Hotel on Park Lane to Saudi Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal.

Dwarfing the news



LEAVING the fairy lights of Bond Street for the fairy tales of Wapping, what is the difference between "up market" and "down market" at Rupert Murdoch's newspapers? Both The Times and The Sun had cartoon illustrations of dwarves on their Budget front pages. The "up market" Times portrayed Gordon Brown as one of Snow White's dwarves while the "down market" Sun drew him as Snow White leading her dwarves. Literally speaking, oot much difference at all.

Helpful Harriet

THAT didn't protect the news desk at The Times on Tuesday evening from irate, pleading telephone calls from Martin Sixsmith, Harriet Harman's spin-doctor, and then the Social Security Secretary herself. At issue was a diary piece about Harman's daughter, who has been informed that her Dulwich home is beyond the catchment area of the highly desirable(particularly if you're a Labour minister) Church of England comprehensive Lady Margaret School. After Sixsmith failed to convince that this was an infringement of the Privacy Code, Harriet rang to say that surely The Times had better things to publish. "Why don't you print a picture of [assistant editor; Mary Ann Sieghart?" she asked, leading some of: the hacks to wonder if they should ring the Dulwich office of Care in the Community.

Pandora

DAILY POEM

Burden

By D J Enright

The grasshopper was a burden to me. It knew of something hurtful to me. In a dream I squashed the grasshopper.

Why was the grasshopper such a burden? its singing hindered me from sleeping. All flesh is grass was still its burden.

Unlike the owl, the bat, the loris. The grasshopper is no power of darkness. It sings at ease in the light of the sun.

Did I lie at ease in the light of the sun? The gusshopper hindered me from sleeping. (f so, then how could I be dreaming? The grasshopper is no more a burden.

This week's poems celebrate D J Enright's half-century as a published poet and come from his new Collected Poems 1948-1998 Oxford University Press, £15). Enright taught English for many years in the Far East and Egypt, and has also worked as a pholisher, critic and editor. This poem first appeared in Poems 981

Cleese and Elton back on BBC

ELTON. Caroline Quentin, John Cleese, Stephen Fry, and David Ginola are among the famous faces unveiled in the BBC's £278m spring and summer schedule

In BBC1 drama, the former Brookside star John McArdle, EastEnder Lindsey Coulson and Dominic West play caring doctors in the medical series Out Of

An action-packed science fiction thriller Invasion: Earth is set in the present day and stars Vincent Regan, Maggie O'Neill, Fred Ward and Phyllis Logan.

City Central, a oew police drama, will make its debut and another oew BBC1 drama offering is Close Relations, a story of love and revenge featuring Amanda Redman, Sheila Hancock and Kate Buffrey.

Kevin Whately is back in a second series of The Brokers' Man and Letitia Dean gets a second series of The Hello Girls aboot a 1950s telephooe

In The Red on BBC2 is a with a strong cast including evening oo BBC2.

Warren Clarke, Stephen Fry and Richard Wilson. The radio hit Spoonface Steinberg has been made for television on BBC2.

Kiss Me Kate is Caroline Quentin's new comedy about a happily single career woman, while Ben Elton has an eightpart comedy series and Blankety Blank returns to BBC1 with Lily Savage at the helm.

The Human Body, a science show presented by the fertility expert Professor Robert Winston, claims to be the most comprehensive hiology series ever

Rolf's Amazing World Of Animals is a new factual vehicle for Rolf Harris and BBC2 presents The Windrush Season. marking the 50th anniversary of Caribhean immigration to

Sport will include the World Cup football finals - with David Ginola in the commentary team the Grand National, Test Match Cricket, Wimbledon and the Open Golf, while the former world heavyweight hoxing champion Muhammad Ali will wicked satire on the BBC itself be celebrated with a theme





Ben Elton (above) at the launch yesterday of the **BBC's spring and summer** schedules in which he has an eight-part comedy series. Also in the line-up are Caroline Quentin (left), who stars in the new comedy show, Kiss Me Kate, and Professor Robert Winston, the fertility expert (right), who will present a science show on The Human Body Main photograph:

Kalpesh Lathigra



'Female' abuse syndrome crosses sex divide

By Jeremy Laurance -lealth Editor

A BIZARRE form of child abuse thought to be carried out only by women can be perpetrated by men, too, according to A series of cases in which fa-

thers smothered or poisoned their children in order to get medical attention is described in the medical journal Archives of Disease in Childhood. The fathers, dosed their children with salt, caffeine or rat poisoo or smothered them until they passed out to make them appear ill and obtain medical attention.

The fathers were diagnosed as suffering from Munchausen syndrome by proxy by Professor Sir Roy Meadow, the consultant paediatrician who first described the syndrome in the late 1960s. Professor Meadow said that for 10 years after identifying the condition he believed it only affected women but he had since come across 15 families where the father was involved.

Munchausen syndrome, from which many of the men were also suffering, involves patients inveoting ailmeots which trigger medical investigations as a way of gaining attention. In the proxy version, the child is made the object of the investigations.

In most cases the fathers had taken their children to accident and emergency departments with the story that they had stopped breathing or heen found shaking, having a fit or unconscious. Usually they had been smothered and in several cases the fathers had attempted resuscitation.

Often the fathers were difficult and demanding in hospital. One conducted a crusade on behalf of his daoghter, seeking expert opinions from round the country. In another, the father bought medical books and equipment and took blood, administered enemas and performed other tests on his four-year-old son.

Many of the meo were pathological liars inventing stories about fighting alongside the Duke of York in the Falklands War, writing a screenplay for Steven Spielberg, being the victim of burglaries or of strangers abducting their children. Professor Meadow writes: "From the descriptions of some of their lives, at least six of them would have vied with Baroo Munchausen [the war-time air ace] himself in terms of dramatic and untruthful stories."





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British motorists face an expensive future

By Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

DRIVERS will face higger bills in the coming years as the Gov-

streets and curb growing pollution. Tuesday's Budget - which mixed petrol price hikes with a cash boost for public transport - demonstrated the benefits for ministers of pursuing such a strategy: bringing in more than £1bn in extra taxes and delivering environmental benefits.

Gavin Strang, the transport minister, described it as the "most far-reaching package of measures to promote cleaner vehicles and fuels the country had seen". Economists were quick to point out that drivers use huge-engined cars. had ensured the Budget was fiscally neutral. "Along with cutting relief for the married couple's allowance and smokers, motorists paid for it," said Paul

Institute of Fiscal Studies. Petrol went up by more than

5p a litre - costing the motorist 10.6 mpg - pays £1080. an extra £60 a year on average. ernment attempts to unclog city and the Chancellor criticised the oil companies for not passing on the drop in world-wide fuel prices. This has bought an immediate response. BP, the oil giant, cut the cost of petrol by 2p a litre in rural areas.

But for Britain's drivers, the devil is in the detail. Although from next year will see a new £100 tax disc for the "smallest and cleanest cars", no upper limit has been set a possible excise duty for gas guzzlers. This could see huge increases for those motorists who choose to

This "graduated" duty is the norm on the Continent. Drivers of the Suzuki Swift - the most fuel efficient car on the road would only pay £66 in road tax follow in this May's transport they pay for," reads the ad.

Johnson, deputy director of the in Belgium. However, a motorist White Paper. This will include in Brussels who drives a Ferrari F50 - which manages a mere

> Company car owners also thought they had escaped with just a phasing out of their free fuel subsidy. This will cost the executive with a two-litre Mercedes £150 extra a year and will raise more than £500m by 2001 for the public purse.

> "We are looking to encourage the production of fuel-efficient vehicles. Fuel duty increases and changing excise duty schemes will encourage that," said a civil servant.

But in the small print lurks another change for company car users. The Government quietly announced a review of the tax hreaks which provide "a perverse incentive to drive extra business miles".

proposals which could see councils fining motorists who spew fumes into the atmosphere as well as charging drivers for entering congested town centres.

A leaked draft of the paper showed ministers will introduce a tax, to be collected by local authorities, on "private non-residential parking", mainly staff car parks provided free by employers or customer spaces offered by shops. A ministerial aide said that unless current policies were changed "it would be difficult" to meet the air quality standards for 2005 set by the previous administration.

This has not impressed the motoring lobby. The AA took out full page newspaper adverts today to question the Government's agenda. The Chancellor talks of fairness and that More measures are sure to must mean motorists get what



Single parents will have to wait until April next year to receive their second extra premium

Year of struggle before lone parents receive benefit bonus

By Glenda Cooper

Social Affairs Correspondent

LONE PARENTS daining for the first time will have to wait a year before the value of last year's benefits outs is replaced, putting many in financial hardship, campaigners warned last

Benefit for new claimants year." was cut in December but the Government said that moves in the Budget to increase other benefits would replace the money lost by lone parents.

ers will have to wait nntil April 1999 before they are on a par with other parents - a year in which both they and their children will face hardship.

Last December the Government pushed through the controversial benefit cuts for lone parents, sparking rebellion and a ministerial resignation. The cuts, proposed by the previous Conservative government, left lone parents on income support £4.65 a week worse off.

"This is quite serious if you are a lone parent on income support," said Margaret Creear, policy officer for Gingerbread who is urging the Government to halt the benefit cuts. "We are talking about new claimants

and it is pretty expensive." Maeve Sherlock of the National Council of One Parent Families said: "It may sound like small sums but if you are on

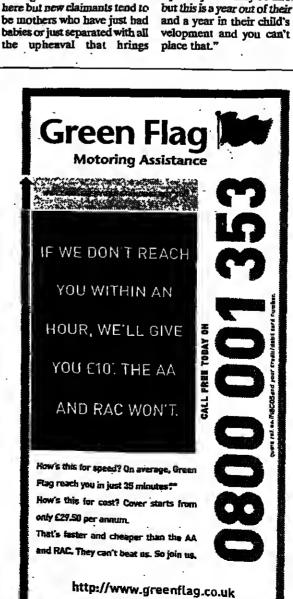
less than £100 a week it is huge. If the Government had the courage of its convictions it would do something about this and defer the cuts until next ! If a lone parent has a child ::

under 11, he or she will receive an extra £2.50 per week in November with the new under-11 child rate. But they But campaigners said last will have to wait until the folnight that delays in introducing lowing April to receive anoththose rises mean that the moth- er £2.50 per week in family premiums.

"Basically they won't get the reinstatement for a year," Ms Creear said. "It doesn't add up. The Government promised that no low income families would be worse off because of the Budget, but lone; parents on income support are

going to be worse off for a year. This is a big amount for lone parents. Those on income support are amongst the poorest people in the population. More than 30 per cent of them live in severe hardship - that means they don't have enough

food for clothing and food. "So when you are talking about £2.50 - £5 you are talking about food for their child. By next year it may be all right but this is a year out of their life and a year in their child's development and you can't re-



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Tobacco tax delay angers health lobby

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

A SURPRISE delay in slapping extra tax on cigarettes could cost the Exchequer a packet - of more than £600m in lost revenues.

But Customs and Excise said yesterday that the decision to stall for more than seven months the extra 21p duty and tax oo 20 cigarettes was a "hangover" from the old November Budgets, when Kenneth Clarke had increased tobacco duty from 1 December.

Similarly, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has held back the increase in drink - a penny on a pint of beer and 4p on a bottle of wine - until New Year's Day, 1999.

Clarke in his November Budget because be and not wished to be dubbed a "Scrooge" for putting extra duties oo drink in time for

But the distinction between the immediate, overnight increase in petrol duty, and the extra tax "holiday" for tobacco, will disturb the health lobby.

December's increase in duty amounts to 5 per cent in real terms - over and above inflation - because "the Government maintains its commitment to protecting health". stockpile.

Last year's July Budget increase was also stalled until December, and it was estimated that in addition to "lost" revenue of £300m, and therefore cannot do all that much." the Chancellor had handed the manufacturers ample time to maximise production and profits in advance of the tax hike.

A spokesman for Customs and Excise lost revenue. Treasury calculations show a ed to smoke it."

remorselessly steady increase in the tax take" from tobacco; up from £8bn in 1996-97 to £8.9bn in the coming year.

But the yield from oext December's increase in duty will be £25m for the rest of the new financial year - compared with a full year yield of £710m in 1999-2000.

As for any suggestion of profiteering on the back of the delayed increase, Customs and Excise said that there was always stockpiling of cigarettes and tobacco in advance of a tax increase. "That is what happens every year, anyway," the spokesman said. "That is a fact of life."

But John Carlisle, the former Conservative MP who now works for the Tobacco Manufacturers' association, told The Inde-That timing had been settled by Mr pendent that the delayed increase in duty was "a sort of crumb of comfort for me and my industry, and the poor smoker.

"Like last year, it seems to be creating a precedent as to the time the duty goes up, but from our point of view it won't make any difference to the basic problem; that the smuggler will be delighted by the oews that the price is going up by that amount in the future."

He said there were limits on how much the manufacturers could produce and

"Yes, there is always stockpiling by retailers, but they have to pay the full price, There was also a certain amount of stockpiling by smokers, too.

But he added: "Probably, fit pushes consumption up a hit because people tend to yesterday played down any suggestion of store stuff and if it's there, they are tempt-



Smoke screen: A delay on levying new duty could cost the Exchequer £600m

Housing comes before job guidance for young homeless

By Barrie Clement Labour Editor

THE first signs of dissension from voluntary agencies delivering the Government's New Deal programme emerged yesterday over a plan to provide "mentors" and other extra help to the most disadvantaged young people.

The Ccotrepoint charity.

which provides housing for people at risk, commended the mentoring system, but said the most urgent need was for reform of the benefits system to help provide housing.

The "foyer" movement which provides accommodation and help for the homeless. yesterday said that while the £50m in additional funds was welcome, an insufficient percentage was coming its way.

Carolyn Hayman, chief executive of the Foyers' Federation, said that it should be given full responsibility for helping its own residents to take advantage of New Deal.

Ms Hayman said members of her organisation were best placed to help the people they knew. In some areas, however, foyers were only given about £180 for each individual on New Deal out of an average £400 or more spent on prepariog young people for the scheme through the so-called Gateway process.

"For heaven's sake we invented the Gateway. We have been helping to get homeless people into work for years," said Ms Hayman, who added that too much money was channelled by local partnerships through Training and Enterprise Councils.

Part of the extra £50m, ancounced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer io Tuesday's Budget, will be spent on a "mentoring" service for the 18- to 24 year-olds on New Deal. Uoder



Gordon Brown: Announced 'New Deal' mentoring funds

nesses, charities, churches and ethnic minority organisations will act as personal advisers or "huddies" to the most needy participants on the programme.

Under the plan up to 100,000 young people will be offered the support of trained mentors over the life of this Parliament, according to David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

Victor Adebowale, chief executive of Centrepoint, said his organisation already provided residents with mentors where they were needed.

"Homeless young people tell us that it's very difficult to get and maintain full-time work without a place to iron clothes or get a good night's sleep. For many homeless young people a mentoring scheme is not a priority. A safe place to live and help to maintain accommodatioo is the first step," he said.

Other elements of the extra £50m will help to provide basic skills courses and there will be increased access to specialist help to tackle such problems as alcobol and drug dependency. homelessness and debt.

Employment Service managers report that one of the biggest problems eccountered by young people hoping to take jobs is the mountain of debt they

Blunkett pledges £100m to cut class sizes

By Colin Brown

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Green Flag

WE DON'T REACH

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AND MAC WORT

DAVID Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, will today announce a £100m allocation to improve and extend from the Budget, will be used school buildings to meet to replace temporary classabour's election pledge to re-rooms and it is expected that

spending shift towards educa- was allocated for training and review across all Whiteball from cancelled or delayed tion and health from defence and other Whitehall budgets.

The mooey, part of the £250m windfall for education the downpayment in a massive Budget increase for education comprehensive

computer projects, with around £40m for education in Wales and Northern Ireland.

Mr Blunkett has been arguing for more mooey from the Treasury to meet Labour's election pledges on education. He more of Britain's wealth on edace class sizes. It is being por- some will be targeted at rural is looking for a much bigger ucation than the Tories. trayed by the Government as areas. Around £100m of the increase in his budget from the

departments. A ministerial source said

education oceded billions of pounds more to enable the Government to meet its general election promise to spend

- Ministers are expecting spending much of the money to come vestment could enable ministers spending followed by cuts." | the system volunteers from busi- bave built up.

Tony Blair gave a clear hint

defeoce contracts.

yesterday that be is planning to meet Labour's pledges to the voters on education and health by promising year-on-year increases for the remainder of the Parliameot.

A rolling programme of in-

ries oo year oo year so we can get away from the situation under the Tories from spurts in

to promise an extra £2bo year

oo year for the next three years

for health, and a similar big

MPs that he wanted to get into

a cycle "where investment car-

The Prime Minister told

boost for education.

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FBI expert
has clue to
has di Gra
Mardi Gra
identity

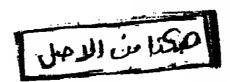
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Counterfeit gang (1.4)

ost loan, just pic up the phone





FBI expert has clue to Mardi Gra identity

By Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

THE CRIMINOLOGIST who successfully compiled an offender profile of the American "Unabomber" believes the Mardi Gra terrorist, who has been responsible for a series of explosions in London, is likely to switch targets soon and will not stop even if he is paid extortion money.

Dr Bill Tafoya, a former FBI officer, also provided yesterday a description of the man he believes is behind the British bombings. He thinks he is probably in his mid 30s, feels undervalued, lives in London, has a boring job, and is motivated by attention. He believes Sainsbury's and Barclays Bank are being targeted, not for money, but because Mardi Gra thinks he was badly treated as a cus-

tomer and bears a grudge.
It took the FBI nearly 20 abomber, Ted Kaczynski, who sent or delivered bombs that killed three people and injured two others. Kaczynski, 54, was jailed for life this year after the former mathematician in in Montana, following a tip off by his brother.

Dr Tafoya, who appeared yesterday at a conference in Manchester organised by the National Criminal Intelligence Service, said he thought the Mardi Gra bomber, who has detonated 34 small bullet devices in the past four years, was "dramatically different" to Kaczynski. "He is nowhere near as sophisticated," he said.

Inquiry launched into

plane nosewheel collapse

AN investigation was under way last night into why the nosewheel of an aircraft suddenly collapsed shortly after it landed with 62 people on board. The 58 passengers and four crew escaped down emergency chutes on to the tarmac at Manchester Airport. One passenger was taken to hospital with a broken ankle and another four were treated on the spot for minor injuries. Passengers on the 8.30am British Regional Airlines BA 7783 flight from Southampton later told how the ATP aircraft began shaking as the captain and first officer struggled to maintain control as the nosewheel collapse. It slewed sideways across the runway and came to rest with its nose against the ground.

Ten held over Maze killing

of two friends, in a Poyntzpass, Co Armagh, pub.

Counterfeit gang jailed

£1,000 after the eight-week trial.

ATLEAST 10 Loyalist Volunteer Force prisoners in the Maze jail were arrested and questioned by police yesterday about the killing of a murder suspect in the prison. The move came after detectives returned to the LVF wing of the jail where David Keys, 26, was found murdered on Sunday. He was one of four men remanded in custody, charged with the inurder

A GANG of forgers which planned to flood the economy with millions of pounds of fake banknotes during the European football championships was yesterday jailed for a total of 26

years. Glasgow men Thomas McAnea, 48 and Raymond Dean, 44, who masterminded the plot, were found guilty of counterfeiting and conspiracy to defrand charges and jailed for 10 years and eight-and-a half years respectively. Three others were ailed for between one and five years. A sixth man was fined

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him. He has almost certainly got a scrapbook with all the reports of what he has done. Getting money will not stop him.

"I think he will go for a different target soon. It could be some other organisation that he thinks has harmed him."

He added: "Mardi Gra may have been insulted by a checkout girl or a bag boy. He may have bought a had chicken from Sainsbury - it could be that simple. He probably feels undervalued for his hard work and has a paranoia about someone trying to do him harm or insulting him."

The bombs, the latest of which was exploded in a plastic bag near a Sainsbury store in south-east London on Thesday, are simply made and suggest the maker has a "menial joh" such as caretaker or office worker, said Dr Tafoya.

The type of device used, which were first targeted against years to capture the Un- Barclays hank in 1994, also suggest the bomber may be a former military man or engineer, alternatively he may have belonged to a gun club, he added. He is likely to feel that he has "not got his just reward and Harvard graduate was from life", probably dresses in tracked down in 1996 to a cab- a boring mainer and does not look out of place in some of the poorer districts of London, Dr Tafoya believes.

Asked how police should best proceed to catch the bomber, he said they could reexamine the first few bombing incidents when he is mostly likely to have made mistakes. "They should look at them upside down and backwards."

Dr Zafoya noted that the FBL had ignored the offender pro-He told The Independent: file of the Unabounber, which "He is looking for attention, not later proved to be accurate in money - that does not interest several key areas.



Artists' impression: Models dressed by Yves Saint Laurent in the National Gallery room funded by the designer

High art joins high fashion

MASTERPIECES from France and the Netherlands go on show together for the first time today as four rooms in the National Gallery open to the public, following a £4m restoration.

The Gailery raised the cost of this, the first of two renovation phases for its North Galleries, from the private sector and more than half the funds came from Prance. The designer Yves Saint Laurent has supported the entire cost of the largest room (left) which houses 17thcentury Paris paintings, including Philippe de Champaigne's portrait of Cardinal Richelieu. The Queen and the Queen Mother have also backed the project.

Neil MacGregor, director of the National Gallery, described the support as "an outstanding example of European co-operation". The second £4m phase is due to open in the autumn of next year.



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No hiding place for dangerous sex offenders

By Kim Sengupta

DETAILS about the whereabouts of paedophiles following their release from prison can be revealed to the public by the authorities, the Court of Appeal ruled in a landmark judgment vesterday.

The police and other government agencies will now be legally entitled to publicise where the freed sex offenders are living "10 protect the publie and in particular children". and the media will be allowed to name them.

The judgment comes just days after it was announced that up to 150 convicted sex offenders will be released from prison into the community without compulsory supervision. Six of those are said to be as potentially dangerous as child-killer Robert Oliver, who has already cost the public £100,000 in efforts to protect him from from vigilantes, and children from him.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lord Justice Schiemann and Lord Justice Robert Walker stressed, however, that "disclosure should only be made when there is a

more should be done to find paedophiles appropriate accommodation after they had served their jail sentences.

The judges rejected an appeal by Peter and Christine Thurpe against a decision by North Wales police to release information about them. They also lifted an order preventing the media from naming the pair after being told that their preseni address was not known.

Mr Thorpe, 46, and his 42-year-old wife were described as "extremely dangerous people who will pose a considerable risk to children" in a report by Nurthumbria police. Both had teft prison in July 1996 after serving seven years and four months of a 11-year sentence for the rape of a girl of 16, and a series of indecent assaults on ynung children.

from a series of places after local communities in the area became aware of their identity and crimes. The court was told the couple had co-operated with the authorities in the past, but they had now "gone to ground".

Giving judgment, Lord Woolf stated: "We agree with

The Link

pressing need", and urged that a Divisional Court that the policy of North Wales police was not unlawful, nor was the action of of the police in giving effect to that policy.

> The more recent guidance of the Home Secretary is an improvement un that policy. It is reassuring to know that the latest policy will be applied in the future. Regrettably recent experience has confirmed that while some former affenders' behaviour has changed after serving their sentence, other offenders retain the propensity to repeat their offending and if given the apportunity to do so, commit further offences of the same or similar nature".

Paul Cavadino, principal officer of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said the judgment was welcome because it allowed the police to give out in-Afterwards they had to flee formation only when there was a pressing need to do so, "It will act as a valuable check on the way police forces decide whether to disclose sex offenders' identities to third parties. The court's emphasis on finding stable accommodation for released sex offenders is particularly welcome."



New Oyster cult: Nigel Coates at Earls Court with his 'energy-aware prototype for the expanding homes market'

Concept house takes flight for the future

THE NEW kid on the block at the Ideal Home exhibition is guaranteed to cause the net curtains in the adjacent show houses to tweak. It is called the

Oyster by its architect Nigel storey perched above the all- builders at the exhibition want-Coates, but from some angles it looks more like a Stealth Bomber landed inside Earl's

With its cross-shaped deck and shallow oval pod upper-

glass ground floor, this family house for four owes more to the aircraft industry than a mollusc.

Although he is the professor. of architecture at the Royal College of Art, and his list of clients includes the Foreign Office and the Department of Trade and Industry, Nigel Coates is not a name you would normally link with the relentlessly. untrendy Ideal Home exhibition. But be likes to play to big audiences, and so he entered a competition sponsored by Blueprint

called Concept House. Coates's creation doesn't need gutters and soil pipes and . any of those awkward plumbing pieces that might spoil the lift-off of its copper-clad roof. The copper will eventually verdi-gris which will soften its impact in the leafy suburbs

ed to prototype it. Instead London Electricity helped get one off the ground to generate interest. If enough of the 500,000 people expected to visit this year's exhibition want to see one in their cul-de-sac, then it will furniture. be possible to manufacture components for on-site assemthen sell for £100,000. "The idea

is to make a fresh energy-aware

prototype for the expanding

homes market," he says, The all-glass downstairs is nanelled with sections of Privalite glass which turn from clear to opaque at the flick of indoors to provide surfaces for a switch. A liquid crystal coating activated by an electrical impulse makes the change,

Furnishing a round house used to be as easy as buying a brown camouflage pattern water-bed and some poufes. where Coates hopes it will find 'But that kind of Seventies suba home. None of the showhouse, unbia attitude wouldn't pass

Coates's style trial. Besides, be treats the space as a "soft oval". So be furnished it himself with straightforward easy pieces which are much more comfortable than they look to shatter a few myths about modern

Open-plan living can be exacting with two children. So Coates planned two staircases to turn the upstairs wing into two separate units.

Like all modernists, he is particular about soft furnishings. There are insulated shutters instead of floral curtains, while flimsy voile screens filter light images beamed on them from LCD projectors which the architect calls "moying digital wallpaper". Downstairs, a sandy called "Desert Storm" gives

street cred to the orban guenilla.

Minister admits Dome cloud

THE Government yesterday the project was now up against. The Tories' environment lems" over the use of powerful global warming gases in the Millennium Dome.

Michael Meacher, the environment minister, blamed lack of consultation over - hydroffurocarbons (HFCs) in the current row. The result was that

the launch of a first business plan for UK environment industries in London amid protests about the "anti-green". nature of the controversial dome now being built on air conditioning system for the Greenwich Peninsular by the Thames in south-east London.

Mr Meacherwas speaking at John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, to act over the "dangers" of using greenhouse

gases in the system. The Government has pledged to cut greenhouse gases, with the European Union. by at least 8 per cent by 2010 as agreed at the Kyoto summit.

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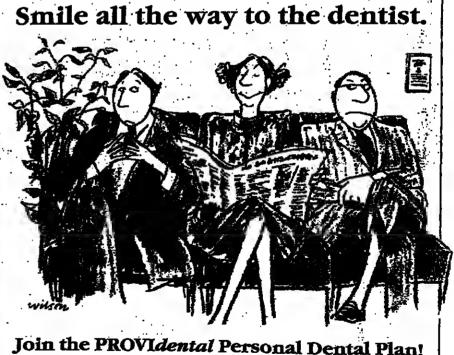


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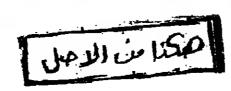
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Cas savings: Our monthly direct debit compared to our cash/cheque paid later than 10 days (32,237 kWh annual consumption). Electricity: Public electricity suppliers average direct debit prices compared to British Gas 240 kWh annual consumption). Savings vary according to consumption.

Britain to lose most EU aid to regions

By Katherine Butler and Kim Sengupta

SOME of the poorest regions in the United Kingdom reacted with dismay yesterday at the prospect of losing hundreds of millions in European Union funding as Brussels announced a radical shake up of its aid programme.

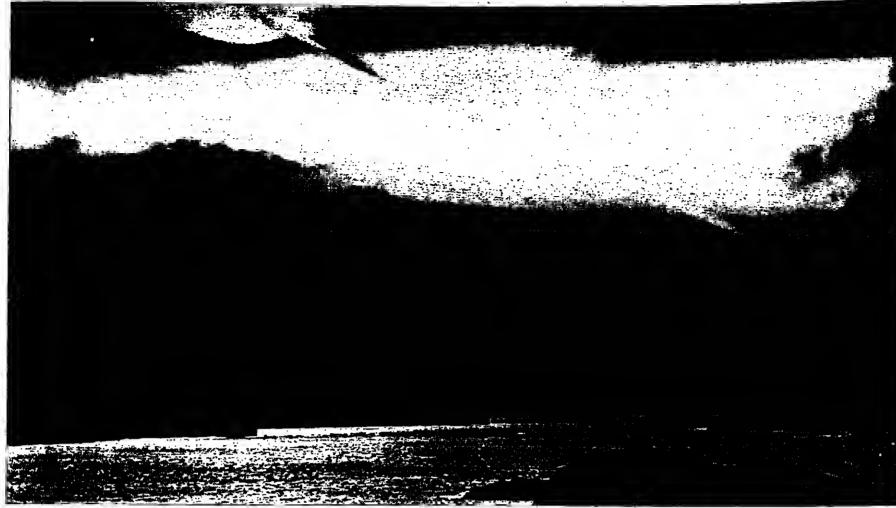
London's protests about the scale of poverty in the United Kingdom were hrushed aside yesterday as the European Commission unveiled proposals which would see British regions from Scotland to Comwall deprived of massive shares of aid. Overall, the country could lose almost 80 per cent of the sum it gets at present.

Britain was also warned by commission president, Jacques Santer, that its budget rebate negotiated by Baroness Thatcher in 1994 would have to be reviewed in the autumn when the European Union's next sixyear spending plans come up for renegotiation.

The commission says that reform of the system under which £ 23bn is given to the regions was inevitable with the EU's decision to admit up to 10 poorer countries from Eastern Europe and Cyprus.

Detailed changes announced by European Union regional policy commissioner, Monika Wulf Mathies will see Northern Ireland and the Scottish Highlands and Islands disqualified from the priority aid bracket they currently enjoy after 1999. Because of improvements in living standards, they no longer pass the test that income per head is below

75 per cent of the EU average. Merseyside will retain its claim for top rates of funding and for the first time South Yorkshire, which has sunk to levels of poverty on a parwith eastern Germany, will see its share of aid doubled. But 13 regions with so-called "objective 2" status -



Skye bridge, linking island to mainland: Under the new proposals, the Highlands and Islands will lose their priority aid bracket status

Photograph: AP

to Wales and £1.1m to Northern Ireworse than those in Ireland. The land. But the British government points out that, despite being the fifth largest contributor to the EU budget, it is 11th in the league table when EU officials say that it was "not realistic" for the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, to come to Brussels to

President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, said last night that relying on unemployment to identify aid regions would be "unreliable and an unbalanced way of gauging regional deprivation. It would also be unfair to the UK which tends to have lower unemployment rates in equally poor areas". She vowed to negotiate for a "fair and affordable" same time claiming poverty levels deal during the negotiations.

'Computer in every home for millennium'

By Charles Arthur Science Editor

A LABOUR MP came up with a new millennium target yesterday; a computer in every home, paid for by National Lottery funds.

Derek Wyatt said in a short debate on the Government's strategy for the Internet, that putting PCs into the UK's 23.5 million households for free by 2002 would "cost no more than the Millennium Dome - and be a better use of the cash." It would prepare children, who will soon all be guaranteed an email address at school, for a world in which "the Internet is the key to retooling and

reskilling our society".

A typical home PC costs about £1,000, meaning it would take roughly £240m to provide every home with one. The funding for the Dome total.: £700m.

Calling for the creation of a new "Ministry of Communications", Mr Wyatt said it should have six "Internet Czars" who would train all ministers. MPs and departments to ensure they can cope with the growing influence of the World Wide Web. The new ministry's brief would include responsibility for telecommunications, hroadcast, regulation, software, post offices, village halls

and the Internet. He added: "If this Government sits on its Internet-free hands for much longer over this issue, any chance we have of creating a modern post industrial society will have been lost forever."

Currently, he said, the Internet is more expensive pursuit than many others: the Media Intelligence Bureau has put the cost, including purchase of the computer, electricity, access and phone bill, at £3.87 per bour-compared with £1,67 for a trip to the movies and less than 12p per hour to watch free to air television,

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His comments received backing from members, including Labour's John Maxton, MP for Glasgow Cathcart. He said: "The state of Texas has now taken the decision that they are buying no more textbooks. Every child receives a laptop computer with an access to the Internet, so they get their information in that way. Isn't that the way we should be going forward in education in this country?"

Britain's share came to £9.7bn, quarter that he wanted. come per bead in many British regions is well below the EU average. A lengthy round of negotiations £6.5bn of which went to regions in between EU governments on the areas of industrial decline - will see A last-minute attempt by commis-England, £1.3bn to Scotland, £636m

employment will be the main yard- the worst effect of the cuts provoked

BRITISH officials complained last night that the goalposts have been moved on regional aid, and the regions which had lost out complained the lack of aid could have grave eco-

nomic consequences. Ulster Unionist Euro MP Jim Nicholson said Northern Ireland is forward and create a level of emlosing out on funding at a time when ployment which we haven't got."

it was desperately needed. He said: "If there is an opportunity for a different political climate and a return to a normal society in Northern Ireland, it's ridiculous that Brussels would deprive us of much needed funding at a time when we can move

their funding slasbed because un-

stick of poverty and jobless rates in

mands from the British govern-

ment to have gross domestic product

per capita also included as one of the

criteria. Low-paid jobs mean that in-

Commissioners overruled de-

most UK regions have fallen.

Liberal Democrat rural affairs spokesman Charles Kennedy, whose Ross, Skye and Inverness constituency qualified for Objective 1 funding under the existing system, declared he was ready to fight to keep that status. He added his party would "underline the continuing vulnerability of our economic base".

sion member Neil Kinnock to blunt

angry debate among his colleagues.

In the end, Mr Kinnock fimited the

damage slightly by ensuring that the

fall in the percentage of Britain's

population covered by EU aid would

be no greater than one-third, but he

failed to secure the fall of just one-

Rural losers fear decline as Europe accused of moving the goalposts

Highlands Council convenor Peter Peacock said the European. not giving up." Union will be taking into account sparcity of city population when deciding which areas were eligible for the lucrative Objective 1 status. He to £1.2bn. continued: "That measure is.

share-out of a total package worth

£126bn will now begin and could

take up to a year with every mem-

ber state besides Britain fighting for

a better deal. The size of the aid cake.

is down 12 per cent on what it was

in 1993 when negotiations last took

For the years of 1994 to 1999,

square kilometre. We are certainly However, there were also win-

preach about his successes in tack-

ling unemployment while at the

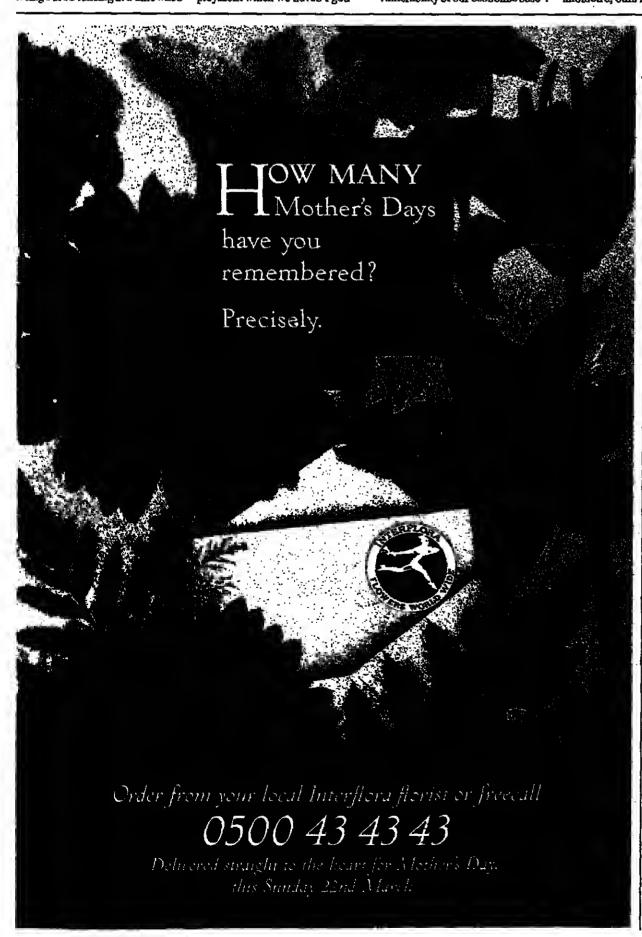
it comes to handouts.

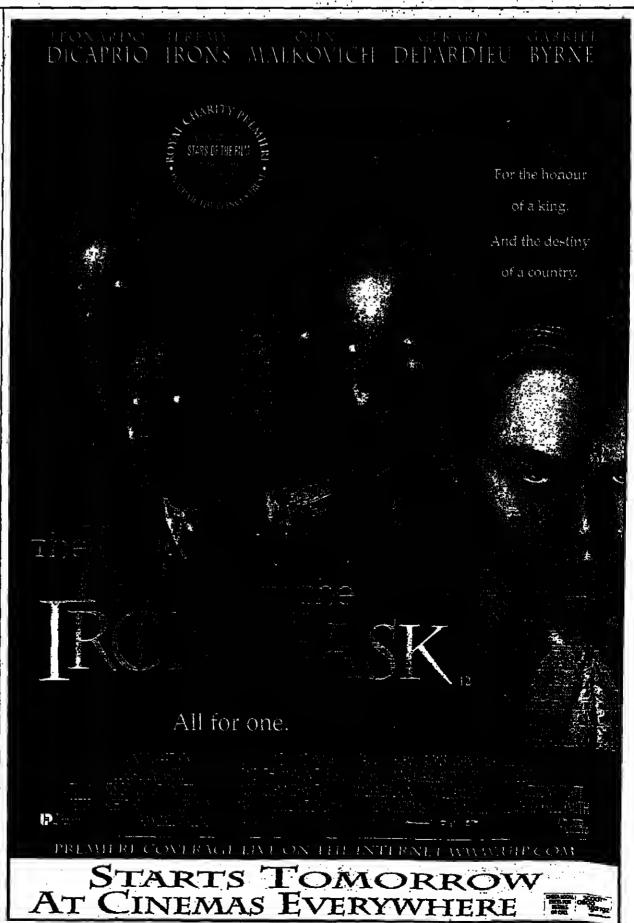
ners. Under the new proposals South Yorkshire stands to gain up

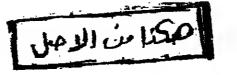
Dennis MacShane, the Labour presently eight persons per squared. MP for Rotherham said: "This is the Bloomfie kilometre, ours is nine persons per best economic news this region has news".

had for 20 years. This will provide a massive boost for economic regeneration in Yorkshire."

Merseyside also welcomed the news it is likely to qualify for Objective 1. Merseyside Training and. Enterprise Council chief Linda Bloomfield said it was "wonderful







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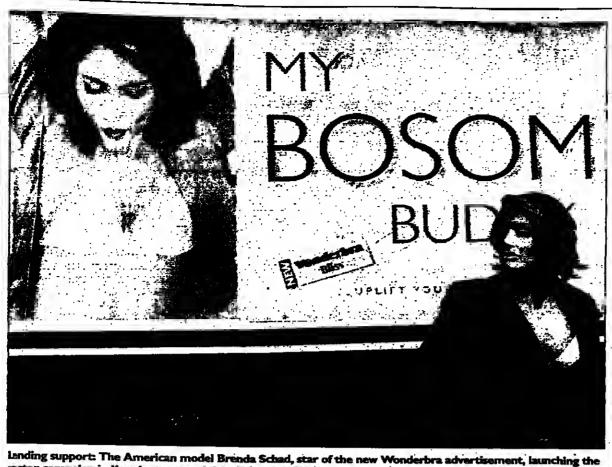
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poster campaign in Kennington, south London, yesterday

Bribery overseas will be offence in Britain

Chief Political Correspondent

BRITISH businessmen will face fines or imprisonment for using bribes to win big contracts abroad under new laws contained in an anti-sleaze Bill to be unveiled in the autumn by Jack Straw.

The Home Secretary will seek to clean up sleaze in Westminster and town halls across Britain with a package of measures in the wake of the "cash for questions" scandal involving Tory MPs in the last parliament. It will become an offence to bribe MPs.

The Independent has learned that it will also become an offence for British citizens to engage in bribery abroad. The international anti-corruption laws will be targeted at big overseas arms contracts involving British companies, and civilian projects such as dams and airports. In future, it will make it a criminal offence for a UK resident or company to bribe public officials in another

Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, pushed for the measure with the backing of Margaret

Trade. Britain signed a Treaty in December in Paris by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) which is to be ratified by the end of the year on outlawing international bribery and corruption.

Mr Straw is taking the lead in bringing the OECD declaration into UK law through the Home Office legislation. He told a joint select committee on parliamentary privilege in January that the Government would rout out dishonesty in public life and increase trust in those who held public office.

He said that the Government saw a review of the corruption laws as they applied to MPs as being an integral part of the domestic and international fight against corruption. A new single offence of corruption covering both the public and private sectors is expected to be introduced. Mr Straw is also studying the Nolan committee recommendation that anti-corruption legislatioo should be extended to cover behaviour that

amounted to misuse of public office. The pressure for government actioo against international corruption was

Beckett, the President of the Board of stepped up by a ministerial aide, Hugh Bayley, MP for York, who introduced his own backbench Bill last month to promote the case for new laws against international bribery and corruption.

He was opposed by the Tory MP for Lichfield, Michael Fabricant, who warned that if bribery was made illegal for British companies, "it would probably rule many British companies out of applying for contracts abroad which would simply fall into the hands of French, German, Japanese, Americao and other competitors".

Mr Bayley said bribery was legal as long as the act of bribery took place offshore, and in some instances it was still a taxdeductible activity.

He said: "When bribery takes root, people start buying things that they do not need. Last year, the chief of naval staff in Pakistan resigned amid allegations of bribery in connection with a £580m purchase of submarines." Mr Bayley estimated that the global sums paid in bribery by some of the poorest countries in the world totalled £50bn, roughly the same as the sum occided to cradicate world poverty.

Drug offenders to be dealt with at special court

By Esther Leach

MAGISTRATES are sooo to begin training for an experimental court dedicated to dealing with drug offenders.

They will spend two days looking in depth and discussing with experts the impact of hard drugs on society and the lives of people who take them and deal in them.

The JPs, all very experienced, will sit at Wakefield and Pontefract magistrates' courts in West Yorkshire, where they will decide if offenders go on rehabilitation programmes or are sentenced in another way.

Constance Gilbey, 68, chairwoman of Wakefield magisould not be seen as an easy option for offenders.

Those who go on the treatment programme will follow a very strict regime which will restrict their freedom," said Miss Gilbey. "The idea is to help offenders to break the drugs habit and give them new lives ... what's useful to the offeoder will be useful to society."

Miss Gilbey, a JP for 38

to be convinced that the offeoders who come to their court are committed to the treatment programme before they are allowed on to it.

The court, which begins work in June, is part of "Step" - substance misuse and enforcement programme - initiated by Wakefield Health Authority, drugs agencies in the area and the UK anti-drugs co-ordinator, Keith Hellawell, when he was chief constable of West Yorkshire, after they saw a similar scheme operating in Miami.

Police will refer offenders arrested for drug-related crimes to a Step worker who will assess them in the cells before they are bailed or remanded to the next trates, who is one of a pool of available drugs court, which 24 volunteer JPs, said the court will be held weekly in Wakefield

Their treatment taken while on probation will involve detoxification, using drug substitutes, and therapy to change attitudes. and behaviour. Regular urine tests will be made to check that An offeoder will go back to.

court regularly so magistrates can monitor their progress. If they do well they will graduate and the probation order terminated or left to expire.

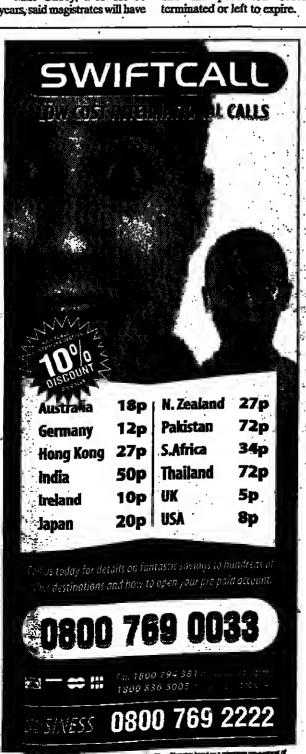
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THE CORSA BREEZE FROM VAUXHALL



Cook wins friends in Syria and Lebanon

By Robert Fisk r Bertit

A BELLOW of thunder heralded the approach of Robin Cook, Middle East peace-maker extraordinary, hero of Har Homa and political descendant of Lord Arthur James Baltour, In the Lebanese foreign ministry, a hush fell as the Briton who lost his dinner invitation with Benjamin Netanyahu took his diminutive place before the microphones alongside the very tall Lebanese foreign minister, Faris Boueiz.

Having stood up to the might of the Israeli settlers, Mr Cook had just come from the halls of power in Syria where the Lion of Damascus - President Hafez el-Assad -- congratulated him on the stand taken by the European Union in the Middle East, They had discussed tsrael's offer (or threat, depending on your view) to stage a unilateral withdrawal from its occupation zone in southern Lebanon.

Mr Cook and his crocodile of dark-suited FO experts, of course, understand all too well how the Syrians feel, If Israel withdraws from southern Lebanon but stays in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, it might he able to persuade the world that it wants peace while keeping Golan – and without a war in southern Lebanon, the Syrians would not be able to encourage the Hizbollah to kill more Israeli soldiers and thus put further pressure on Israel to leave Golan. But that was not what Mr Cook said.

So what did Mr Assad tell Balfour would have been proud.

Blair to risk wrath

Tony Blair may visit some of the disputed territories in Israel next month in spite of the anger caused on Tuesday by the visit by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, writes Colin Brown, Chief Political orrespondent.

The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, accused Mr Cook of breaching an agreement about nat meeting any Palestinian official when he visited the Israeli settlement of Har Huma, known to Palestinians as Jebel Abu Ghneim.

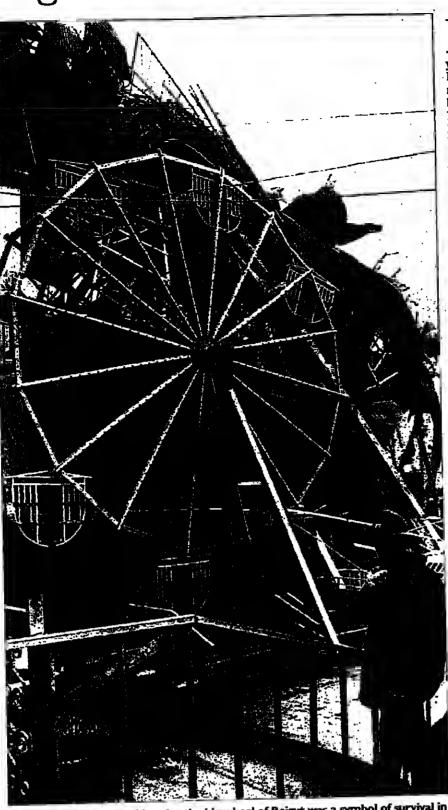
The Prime Minister's spokesman said Mr Blair would not be visiting the same settlement as Mr Cook. Mr Blair will be visiting Israel around 21 April.

Mr Cook? Our Foreign Secretary told The Independent;

"I think it is fair to say that they [the Syrians] do not themselves see a realistic prospect of a unilateral Israeli withdrawal. Were such a unilateral withdrawal to take place, that is a matter for the Israeli government. I think that if there were to be any discussioo about the terms of that withdrawal, they [the Syrians] would, of course, expect the Syrian track to be part of that discussion, and we all want to see progress on that same track."

It was not difficult to see how the Middle East must tremble when Mr Cook speaks, Lord

A giant of the war falls before the wrath of God



Blown away: Resisting all bombs, the big wheel of Beirut was a symbol of survival in Lebanon's civil war. But it couldn't stand up to this week's typhoon Photograph: AP

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VIRST, they ripped down the bombed-out American embassy. Then last year, the wreckage of the US Marine base - 241 US servicemen died in the 1983 suicide bombing-was bulldozed away. But oo Monday God took a hand and tore down one of the Lebanese civil war's most enduring monuments: the great yellow, red and green ferris wheel that had turned merrily for the past 20 years. Bombs had exploded 20 yards away. Shells had crashed into the funfair behind. But it was a tempest of even more explosive proportions that brought the whole

thing twisting and buckling to the ground this week. I'd been on the big wheel myself with a score of Lebanese families. I'd even belped make a Channel 4 television series in which our cameraman, Steve Foster, filmed Beirut from one of the bucket chairs that now lies crumpled at the bottom of my street. But I wasn't surprised at its fate. Not in living memory had a typhooo of this proportioo struck the city, a monstrous wind quite unlike the hamsin storm that normally dumps Egypt's grey sand over Lebanoo at the start of spring. I flew back to Beirut on an Air France Airbus as the first tempest subsided, a great carnel ride of a flight that landed in Beirut with a coating of yellow sand on the plane's wings.
For the sand falling across

Beirut is from a sahra wind, from Libya, along with so much rain that our sunsets have come dark red through the cyclone. At my bome on the Corniche, the deluge has been flying horizontally off the sea, smashing into my apartment block to be blasted upwards by the wind. I found our family cat Walter named after the news editor of the International Herald Tribune - sitting in astonishment on the balcony as rain streamed from the ground towards the top of the house. Maybe this was what it felt like to go down on the Titanic (of which more

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BEIRUT DIARY



Robert Fisk

N Tuesday, I drove down the rain-lashed coast to the south Lebanese town of Tibnin where the Irish battalion of the United Nations peace force was celebrating Saint Patrick's Day. Colonel Colm Doyle - Lord Carringtoo's ADC in Yugoslavia - inspected his men alongside the UN's new Fijian force commander, a massive figure - and a massive improvement on his Polish predecessor who filled almost every page of the UN's magazine, Politburostyle, with pictures of himself. The soldiers wore sprigs of shamrock, forced to receive their latest UN medals under a tent whose roof vibrated with the downpour. The UN's equally massive Turkish spokesman, Timur Goksel, had to shout to make himself heard, difficult since the confident, loquacious and brilliant - Goksel speaks English so well but at such speed that he sometimes verges

on the incomprehensible. But what sounded over Tibnin oo Tuesday were the claps of thunder that detonated down the airwaves to Ireland as RTE, the Irish state broadcasting service, interviewed its UN soldiers live down the line to Dublin, Presenters shouted through the storm as great blue and grey clouds trembling with lightning drifted down the wadis around Tibnin. And there at one point was Fisk, waffling on to Irish listeners about the inconsistencies of Lebanon's con-

stitution - in Mayo, no coubt. they speak of little else while being drowned out by fod's anger overhead.

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or a people inure to tragedy, you might conder why the Lebause have been turning out in legons to see Tuanic. But they hive, packing six cinemas (a Berut record) at 55,000 spectatos a week (another record). Des the liner's fate appeal to them as the elements close in an Beirut? Are they attracted by the name of the ship, whichin Arabic means "Let's have set? Or could it be that we we erners simply do not kno what the Beirutis know: that 1 Lebanese, praying vainly f God's mercy in steerage, we down with the Titanic, the oames unrecorded because they boarded as wait-listed pa sengers at Cherbourg. For the most part, they were poor Christians from the Bekaa valley and - because their names went unlisted and, no doubt, because they were of "Middle East appearance" - no one in the great world cared about their fate except the families left behind in Lebanon.

t was the same case with the five Sidon fishermen who vanished into the storm on Mooday. Their names were buried in the weather reports in the papers, consigned to the waves which crashed over the coast road and sprayed across the wreckage of the Beirut ferris wheel. But on Tuesday, their two little boats appeared at the entrance to Sidoo port. They had lost sight of shore, roped themselves together in the typhoon and fought off the sea for 12 hours while praying - Titanicstyle - for God's mercy. Astonished police and harbour workers watched the two battered hulks creep into calm waters. And so it was that Bassam Habli, Hassan Chaabane, Rifaat al-Aadil, Farj Halime and Khaled Awja came home.

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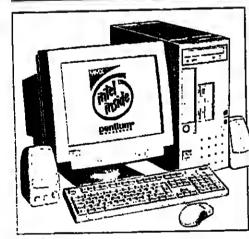
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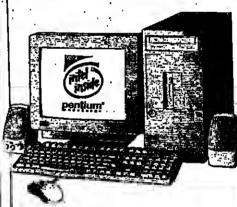
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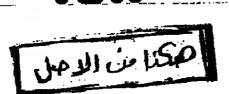


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of Goc + Clinton's aides fall into their

own trap

By Mar Dejevsky in Washgton

IF TE White House had hopeolaying dirty would deflect it squeamish Washington press orps from the chase after prsidential sex scandals, it had aother think coming yesterda. The heirs of Watergate hero: Ed Woodward and Carl Berntein seemed nuly riled by Whi: House attempts to discred Kathleen Willey, the woran who claims President BillClinton groped her when shevent to ask for a job. They voed to continue their hunt.

here was particular irritatio over the copies of letters ari telephone logs released by th White House on Monday, les than 24 hours after Ms Wilk's television appearance. The 2 handwritten letters, gushingly ethusiastic about Mr Clinton n apparent attempt to show nat whatever happened in the Mr Thomas - is being cited)val Office oo 29 November against her. 1993, it had not diminished Ms Willey's devotion to the President. Therefore, the reasoning happened - or if it did, Ms Willey was happy about it.

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If it had been so easy to find and produce these records, reporters asked, what about letfrom Monica Lewinsky to the President? Washington reporters have enquired daily about such records ever since al-Mr Clinton bad bad an affair with the former White House

Early on in the Lewinsky saga, the New York Times reported that White House visitors' logs showed the former House 37 times since she stopped working there in 1996. Some visits had taken place outside normal working hours. Since that leaked information was published, it has never been denied by the White House but neither have records been produced. The chorus from reporters now is: why not?

A series of damaging-limitthe White House communica-

Ann Lewis have also come in for criticism. She told several television shows she had personally met Ms Willey wheo she inquired about helping Mr Clin-ton's 1996 re-election campaign. Again, the inference was that Ms Willey could not have been so distressed by her 1993 encounter if she wanted to sign up again for the President's campaign. But Ms Lewis's defence has rebounded. Among her qualifications for her White House job, along with her support for Mr Clinton, were her feminist credentials. She had been vocal in her backing for the law professor, Anita Hill, in her epic struggle to prevent Clarence Thomas becoming a Supreme Court judge in 1991 because of alleged sexual harassment. Now, her defence of Ms Hill - in particular her exs president, were released in planation of why Ms Hill took a decade to speak out against

tions director and Clinton ally

"You have this really prestigious and powerful boss," Ms Lewis told an interviewer sevapparently ran, nothing had en years ago, and think you have to stay on the right side of him or for the rest of your working life he could nix another job." Spot the difference between that situation and the sitters and logs of telephone calls uation of Kathleen Willey, challenged the New York Times

columnist, Maureen Dowd.

The challenge of the White House press corps has appeared legations two months ago that to take officials unprepared. The normally unflappable White House spokesman, Mike trainee and induced her to lie McCurry, has seemed ill at ease since the weekend, and the usual team of "spinners" has shunned the cameras. Yesterday, the Washington Times, which takes a mostly anti-Clintrainee had visited the White ton line, reported that the decision to produce Ms Willey's letters had been made personally by Mr Clinton, who was now. "directing" the attack.

More problematical for Ms Willey was a report that she still needed money and had tried through her lawyer to obtain a \$300,000 book contract for an autobiography around the time she made her sworn testimony ing television appearances by alleging the incident with Mr



Taking liberties: President Clinton's White House scandals, as caricatured for a float in the recent Rose Monday carnival parade in Cologne, Germany

Stockmarket figures just don't add up for Beardstown Ladies

A CHERISHED fantasy of America's share-owning democracy - that amateur investors can be as savvy as the professionals - has just come crashing down with an apology from the good ladies of Beardstown, Illinois, that they made a mistake, writes Mary Dejevsky.

The Beardstown Ladies, average age 70, gained a reputation over the years for a commonsensical, mid-Western approach to small investment that claimed returns competitive with, and often superior to,

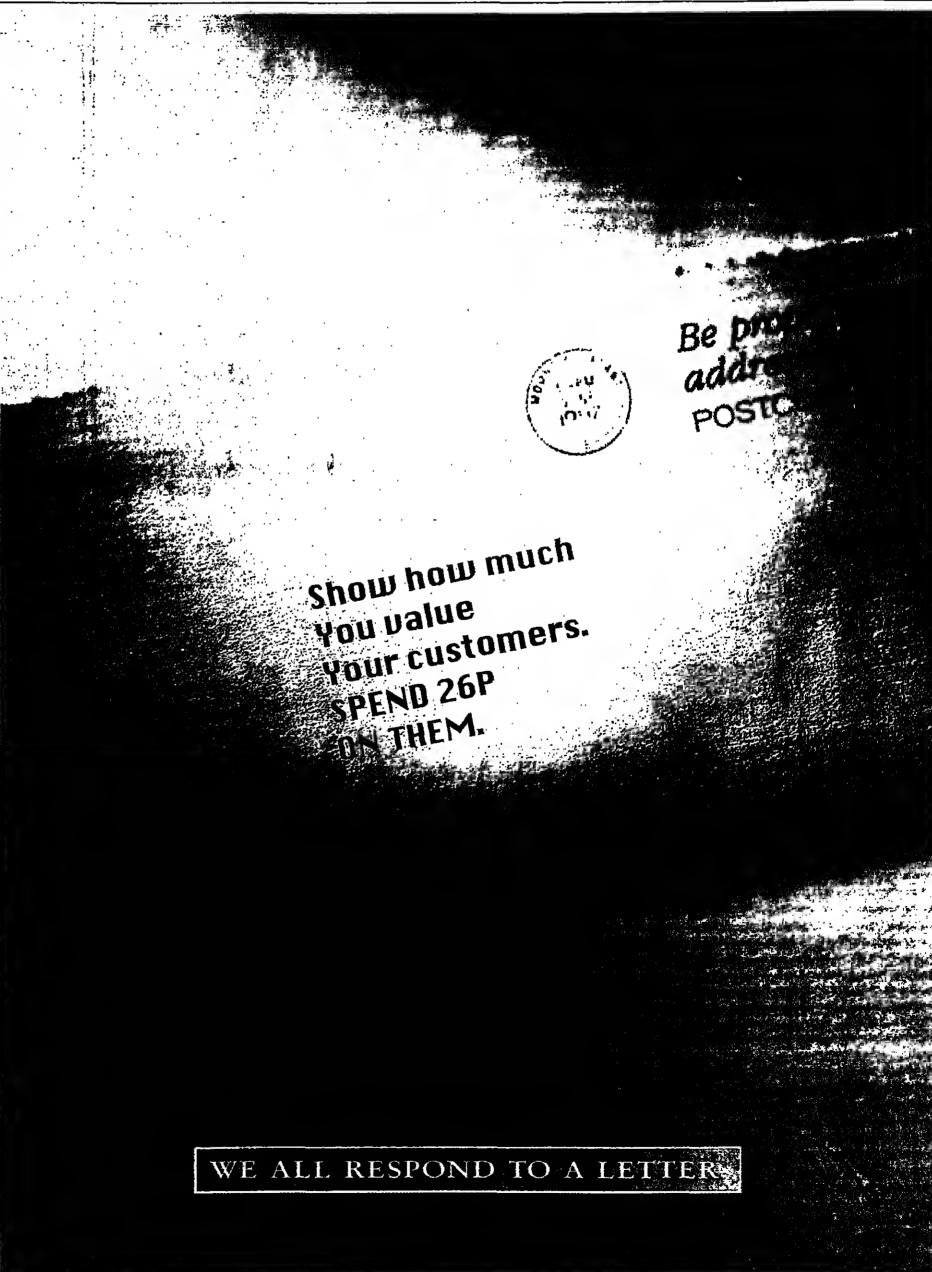
those of the big stockbrokers.

The 14 members of the Beardstown Business and Professional Women's Investment Club devised a recipe for "stockpicking" that, according to their calculations, yielded a 10-year return on investments of more than 23 per cent. That compared with a 12 per cent increase in the Dow Jones Industrial Average Photograph: Reuter | over the same period.

The professionals checked the figures. Alas for the ladies. their claim did not add up. The professionals found that the real return over the relevant period, the 10 years in 1993, was 9.3 per cent.

Now, Betty Sinnock, the club's treasurer, has issued an apology: "The Ladies were very concerned that the public would think we had purposely misbooks," she said in a statement. "We shared this nriginal rate of return in good faith and are terribly sorry for the error and the confusion it may have caused."

Perhaps the Ladies should not be too distraught. Their 23 per cent yield did happen, in 1991-92, and according to a professional audit by Price Waterhouse. their rate of return for the 14 years of their club's existence has been 15.3 per cent; respectably in line with mutual fund yields over the same period.



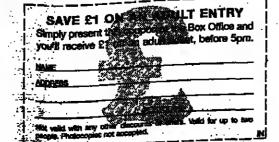
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Farmers face a market free-for-all



A scramble for free chickens at a Hungarian farmers' lobby of parliament. Reforms are seen as essential before countries like Hungary join the EU Photograph: Reuters

embarked on a path of historic reform, aimed at returning much of its agriculture to the forces of the free

ranging shake-up in the 35-year history of its common farm policy, the move to phase out price supports, the cient European farmers, who have of the original CAP. cially high prices, to compete globally for food sales.

on rigging food prices, buying up food that cannot be sold on the market and on subsidies to exporters, will go in- the EU spends 80 per cent of its be pushing for even steeper cuts

THE European Uoioo vesterday Europe's agriculture policy faces its biggest shake-up for 35 years but the wealthy need not worry, writes Katherine Butler in Brussels

European Commission launched a policy, a ban on member states sub- the proposals saying they would sidising their own farmers from na- save consumers £1bn a year oo the bedrock of the Common Agricultural tional coffers, would fall away for the price of food, "The rural environ- food, particularly grain, to shore up Policy since its creation in 1962. The first time. Some believe this marks ment will also beoefit from the regoal is to allow Europe's most effithe first stage of the dismemberment

Eastern Europe early in the next cen- could prove too moch for EU gov-Much of the £30bn a year spent tury could bankrupt the Union. It comes in the context of Agenda 2000, bies behind them. Britain, which has a six-year plan to reform the way always led a cheap food policy, will

Announcing details of the widest stead to fund big increases in direct budget, ahead of the EU's eastward when the negotiations begin later this welfare-type payments to farmers. expansion, Jack Cunningham, the mooth while others will fight to de-One of the keystones of the farm Minister of Agriculture, welcomed

> forms," he said. ernments and the powerful farm lob-

fend their national interests.

hopes, there are few reasons to be-

lieve the new policy will lead neces-

sarily to much cheaper food. Some

direct payments will be linked to the

environment for the first time and

more money will be available to pro-

mote rural development and the

fabric of the countryside". But in-

tense political pressure from the na-

tional governments and farmers

lobbies has recently forced the Com-

mission to drop some of its more rad-

ical ideas. And some measures run

er visioo of a move away from fac-

tory farming to high quality food

production, which safeguards rural

areas. By putting Europe in a race

for world food markets, critics believe

the reform could encourage larger

farms and even more intensive pro-

The Commission's plan aims to eod the policy of stockpiling surplus a market, prices would fall to world Artificially inflated prices for key levels, allowing farmers to export counter to the Commissioo's earlibeen shielded from world trends for Reform is being driven by fears foods - cereals, milk and heef - without the help of subsidies. The more than three decades by artifi- that extension of the CAP in its pre- would be slashed by up to 30 per cent controversial setaside policy, paying sent form to 10 million farmers in from 2000 under the plan, though this farmers to grow nothing, would be scrapped. Franz Fischler, the EU farm commissioner, predicted that after the reform, "in cereals we will have a free market".

In spite of Mr Cunningham's duction than we have previously seen.

Good news for some ...

Big farmers win again

PROPOSALS to curb the amounts of subsidy the richest individual landowners can claim from the CAP are regarded by critics as a ike. Many will still become millionaires just because they own thousands of arms of land 2 1005 all the control of arms of la of acres of land. In 1995 alone three British farms shared cheque of over £5m in aid before they sold even their grain.

The new CAP will introduce a direct aid ceiling. But it is set so the it is only triggered after the first £60,000 a year and then the subsides only begin to taper by 20 per cent. To lose a penny a farmer's ceres growing area would have to be at least 800 acres. Up to 3,000 Brith farms fall into this bracket.

For the biggest, most efficient farmers the stripping away of pre supports and restrictions on the volume of cereals or milk they can pa duce at low cost is welcome. However, small farms will be hit by pri cuts of up to 30 per cent which will be only partially compensated a many fear that, unable to withstand the exposure to competition, the will leave the business.

Supermarkets reap rewards

BIG supermarket chains like Tesco and Sainsbury look set to reap the biggest rewards from the latest EU effort to scale down the price support system enshrined in the CAP.

Like the grain traders and meat exporters who operate in the mid dle, the retail giants will see their costs come down substantially. Farm gate prices will no longer be supported in the way they have been thanks to the phasing out of "interventioo" under which Brussels was legally committed to buying up any food which could not be sold at a minimum price. Cutting the price of cereals is pivotal because it lowers the cost of animal feed and affects the cost to industry of many basic ingredients.

... but not for others

Taxpayers still fund support

SAVINGS for British consumers from the farm reforms are put at £80 a year for the average family. That adds up to £1.53 a week which is cold comfort considering that the CAP adds £20 a week on to the weekly shopping bill for a family of four.

Gnaranteed prices to farmers are being slashed by 30 per cent hut that has only a marginal impact oo the price of food in the shops. Governments will ead up shelling out even more public money to support agriculture as a result of the changes. The additional cost is estimated at between £3bn and £4bn a year, an increase of around 10 per cent.

Cost to the environment

THE strategy behind the reform is to allow EU farmers to compete in the global race for food markets. Critics say this will inevitably encourage high yield, intensive factory farming so that costs that are higher in Europe than in the US or Australia can be sliced.

On the one hand EU commissioner Franz Fischler is urging governments to make 20 per cent of farmer payments conditional on compliance with reduced use of pesticides and fertilisers and a reduction in the number of animals stocked per field. On the other he is to retain a film a year subsidy for producers of maize silage which is the key to cheap beef and milk production on the contineot. Environmentalists regard it as the single most harmful measure in the CAP. It is connected with high use of pesticides which leach into the soil and



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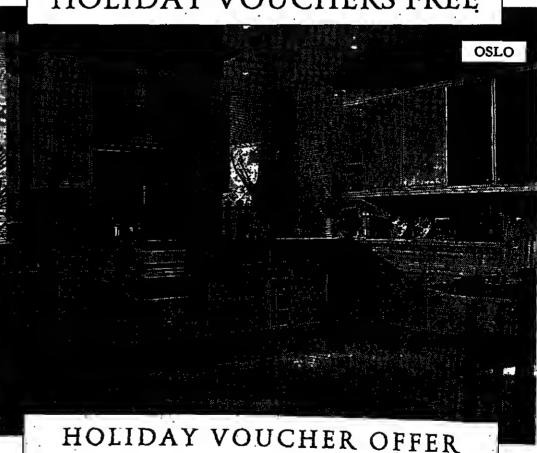
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THE ABRUIT pensioning off of Johannes lau, the grand nld man of the Cerman left, preright-turn by the Social Democrats, little short of the forge a programme. Blairite revoltion in Britain

throne in North Rhine-Westbe succeeded by Wolfgang ness hoped to see.

Clement, a lose Schröder ally. ... longevity, etting an age of re- conference delegates. tirement for politicians can only

help the oposition's cause. with the "dead man's shoes" environment. principe, the tandem counts for a generational change.

Mr Clement is on the same government.

wavelength as Mr Schröder, but has until now been unable to enter debate about the kind of policies that a new Social Democrat government should pursue. Disagreements between pares the way to a dramatic Mr Schröder and the rest of the party have paralysed efforts to.

The unveiling of the mani-Mr Rau ws prised out of his festo scheduled for earlier this week had to be postponed bephalia, the mst populous Land cause the party presidium could in Germanywith more than a not agree on details of their little help from Gerhard "most market-oriented" pro-Schröder, th SPD's chancellor gramme to date. It made all the candidate. After 19 years as re-right noises about investment and the need to modernise, but over 17 millon people, he is to fell short of the specifics busi-

The next attempt will come At first gapce, the swap is a , at the SPD's national conferbrilliant maketing ploy. Mr ence next month. Unlike pre-Rau quits at the age of 67, in the vious occasions of its kind, Mr vear when 6-year-old Helmut Schröder will no longer stand Kohl is going for his fifth term on the rostrum completely as Chancelly. With a growing alone. The regional party that majority of Germans exasper- is now under Mr Clement's ated by Mr Kohl's political thumb accounts for one-third of

Besides trying to impose their will on their own party, the The Scial Democrats will two men are also challenging asnow follow into battle a - rela- sumptions about the SPD's futively - pritely Mr Schröder, ture coalition partners. Mr aged \$, flanked by Mr Clement inherits a fractious Clemen a mere 58. On the Red-Green government in Germa scene, where advance- North Rhine-Westphalia, beset ment i strictly in accordance by acrimonious rows over the

The Greens are aware their cause will find even less sympa-The new packaging, which thy with the new prime minister, has already sent the SPD's poll just as the environmentalists in ratin to dizzy heights, conceals Bonn can expect few favours subsance that the Schröder, from a future Chancellor campaign has so far lacked. The . Schröder. The latter has already charcellor candidate is a prac- served notice that unless the titider of right-wing econom-. Green leadership can whip their ics; the delight of business but fundamentalist troops into line, to he dismay of his own party. they can forget a place in the new



Freak snow: Tourists outside the Old City in Jerusalem battling against a snowstorm yesterday which closed schools and roads Photograph: AFP

Hacker held

An 18 year-old Israeli computer hacker known only as "The Analyser" and wanted by the FBL has been arrested. Israeli police said the backer is accused of "infiltrating computers in Israel and the United States".

- AP, Jerusalem

Dope trial

THE first criminal trial of doping practices in sport opened in Berlin yesterday, with the defendants claiming to be the victims of a political vendetta. Four swimming coaches and two doctors of the former East German club Dynamo Berlin are charged with causing grievous bodily harm to 19 girls by feeding them anabolic steroids in the 1970s and 1980s. - Imre Karacs, Bonn

Gaullist expelled

THE former secretary-general of the Gaullist RPR, Jean-François Mancel, was expelled yesterday for refusing to shun the extreme right wing National Front. Mr Mancel has indicated that he is ready to forge an alliance with the NF following Sunday's regional elections to block the governing leftist coalition from taking power in his area.

Albanians accuse Serb police of opening fire on protesters

ful demonstration in the city of and wounding at least five more.

writes Andrew Gumbel. immediately be confirmed, ap-

persuade Serbs and Albanians

The violence in Pec, in west-The incident, which could not em Kosovo, near the Albanian border, was reported by the

THE MAIN Albanian political tension in the province coin- the mouthpiece for the main Alparty in Kosovo accused Serb po- ciding with new efforts by in- banian party, the LDK. The Serlice of opening fire on a peace-ternational negotiators to bian Information Ministry issued a statement denouncing Pec yesterday, killing one person to sit down and hammer out an vandalism by Albanian demonagreement on Kosovo's status. strators in five towns in Kosovo. but made no mention of

police retaliation. For the past nine days, Alpeared to signal an escalation in Kosovo Information Center, banians have been able to never give the province up even

protest peacefully against Ser- though they are outnumbered bian rule with little or no resistance from the security forces.

Resentment has been growing, however, with gangs of Serbs standing on street-corners during demonstrations, apparently itching for a fight. Serb nationalists vowed that they would

ninc-to-one by Albanians,

Diplomatically, the situation appears to have hit a dangerous impasse, with the Serbs still refusing to withdraw their forces from the cluster of villages they attacked two weeks ago, killing more than 80 people, and the Albanians refusing

to talk to a Serbian government delegation.

The US special envoy Robert Gelbard was in Pristina yesterday, as was a delegation from the Italian religious community of Sant'Egidio, which negotiated the framework of an agreement on education between the two



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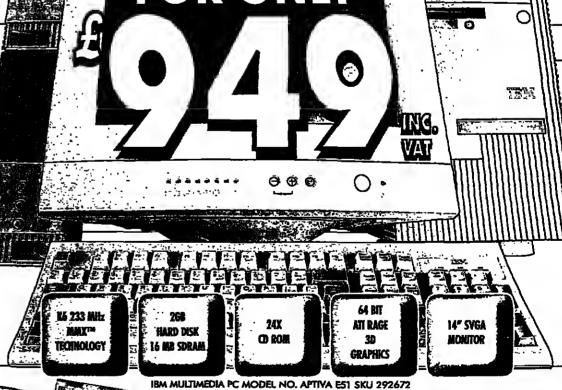
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AT THE Russian Orthodox cathedral in South Kensington, there is the same thick smell of incense that you can inhale in every Russian church from Vancouver to Vladivostok. The singing, with its full, throbbing bass line, is equally Russian - rousing and melancholy by turn. In an Orthodox church, the only musical instrument is the human voice, which fills the echoing space. The service is not for the faint-hearted: it is much longer and more leisurely than its namby-pamby western equivalent, lasting an average of three hours at a stretch, Except for the very old or infirm, worshippers stand throughout the service, as the music and the incense swirl around them. There are no pews, and worshippers move around - lighting candles, listening to the music, kissing icons or lost in prayer, In short, a very Russian event.

And yet, many of the Kensington congregation (and of the Russian-singing choir) are not. Even some of the priests are British. Bernadette Sharpe, a nurse, found the music "much more spiritual" than anything she had heard before. Freke de Graaf, an acupuncturist, was attracted by the "joy" of the church. "It's really alive. It's not just a Sunday church. And the tradition of the theology is rooted very deep," he says.

While the Carnolic and Anglican churches constantly seek to reinvent themselves, reforming the content and language of services, the Orthodox church in effect, a group of churches - finds its strength in Standing still.

It would seem to be the very antithesis of modernity, priding itself on its refusal to follow the fashions of the rest of the world. In some respects, that is precisely what has ensured the Orthodox church strength today -- not just in the countries where it is rooted, but also in Britain at the end of the 20th century. No modern fads: just the church, the music, and God.

of modernity. At the Royal Academy in London, an exhibition opens today which pays homage to the the simplicity and complexity of Russia's religious art. In the West, the link between religion and art has been almost severed. We expect to see a Madonna and Child in an art gallery. not in a church. At an Orthodox service, by contrast, small icons are dotted around the church, and the large central iconostasis forms a focal point.

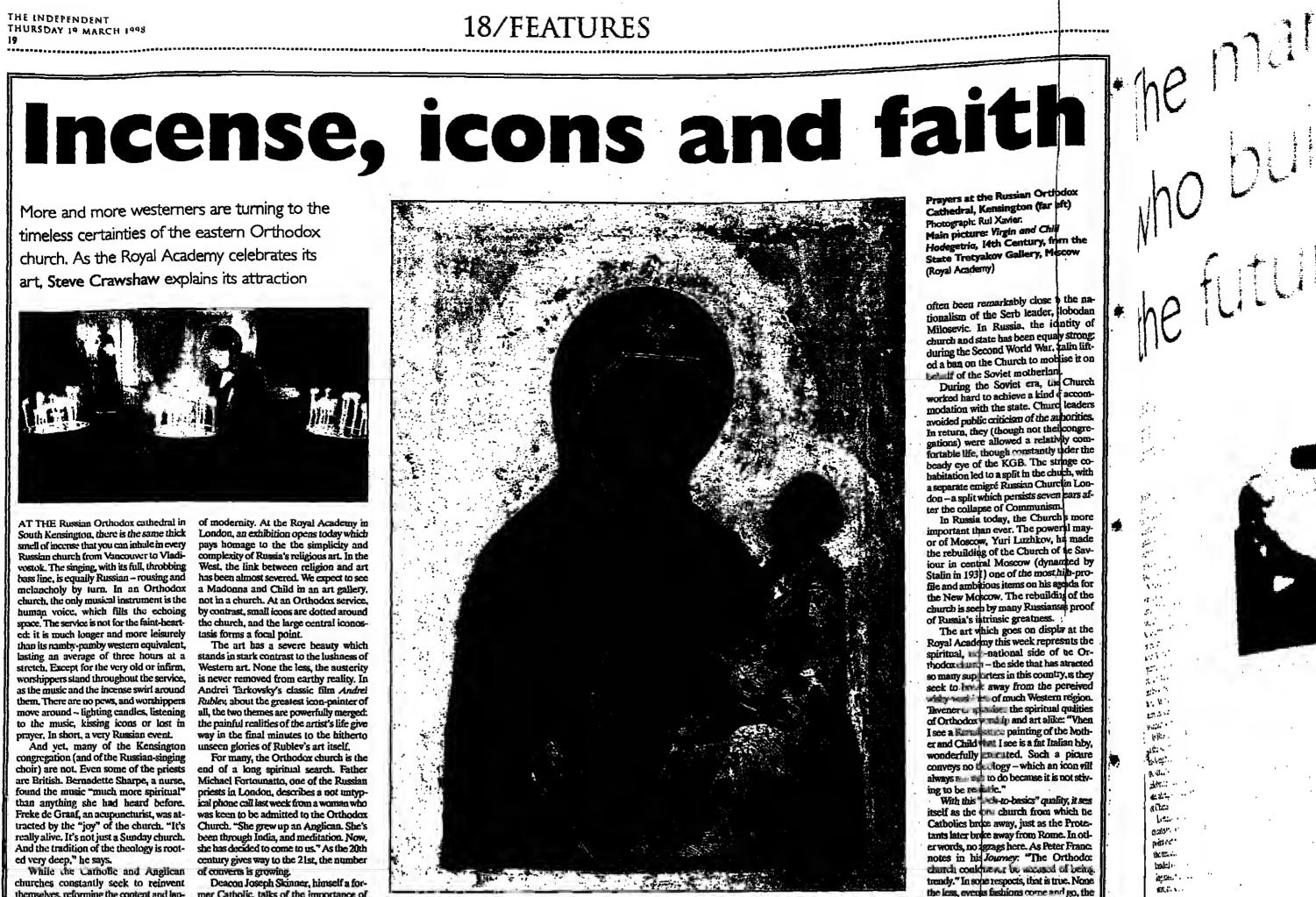
The art has a severe beauty which stands in stark contrast to the lushness of Western art. None the less, the austerity is never removed from earthy reality. In Andrei Tarkovsky's classic film Andrei Rubles, about the greatest icon-painter of all, the two themes are powerfully merged: the painful realities of the artist's life give way in the final minutes to the hitherto unseen glories of Rublev's art itself.

For many, the Orthodox church is the end of a long spiritual search. Father Michael Fortounatto, one of the Russian priests in London, describes a not untypical phone call last week from a woman who was keen to be admitted to the Orthodox Church. "She grew up an Anglican. She's been through India, and meditation. Now, she has decided to come to us." As the 20th century gives way to the 21st, the number of converts is growing.

Deacon Joseph Skinner, himself a for-

mer Catholic, talks of the importance of ceremony. "In the Orthodox church, there is a sense that people are standing before the presence of God. Even in a church as ancient as the Catholic Church, something very precious has been lost. It has become introverted, on man and his world." He insists, however, that this is "not world-denying -- it's profoundly world-affirming. We have the best of both worlds - our feet on the ground and our head in the heavens."

BBC's religious current affairs programme, The art is part of that deliberate lack Everyman, is another convert. He has re- Orthodox followers in this country. He vices in this country has increased with strong. The Serb Orthodox Church has (Chatto & Wadus, £12.99)



to the certainties of the Orthodox church. of matter-of-factness about the cere-

The composer John Tavener - who gained a new dose of international fame

cently published an account of his voyage sees the Western tradition as deeply from agnosticism through hesitant belief flawed: "I'm not very at home with humanism." He emphasises the idea of "not-He talks admiringly of the "combination knowing" instead of rationalism, and argues: "We don't know. We cannot monies and a high seriousness of purpose". judge. Only God can really judge what's gning on inside a person's soul."

Until recently, the Russian congregawhen his Song for Athene was performed toon at the cathedral in Emismore Gar-Peter France, former presenter of the at the funeral of Diana, Princess of dens consisted only of a few emigrés. Now

diplomats from the Russian embassy - official representatives of the Soviet Communist government just a few years ago coming to have their children baptised, and to receive baptism. Even now, however, Britons make up as much as a third of the congregation. English-language leaflets at the cathedral encourage visitors.

Elsewhere, the importance of the church as an exclusive bearer of nation- on Friday. Wales, last year -- is one of the best-known the number of Russians at Orthodox ser- al identity (foreigners not welcome) is Peter France Journey: A Spiritual Odyssey

avoided public criticism of the authorities. In return, they (though not thei congregations) were allowed a relativity comfortable life, though constantly uder the beady eye of the KGB. The stringe cohabitation led to a split in the church, with a separate emigré Russian Churclin Lon-don - a split which persists seven ears after the collapse of Communism.

In Russia today, the Church's more important than ever. The powerd mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, he made the rebuilding of the Church of the Saviers is actived. iour in central Moscow (dynamical by Stalin in 1931) one of the most him-pro-file and ambitious items on his agada for the New Moscow. The rebuilding of the church is seen by many Russianses proof of Russia's intrinsic greatness.

The art which goes on displa at the Royal Academy this week represents the spiritual, and -national side of the Or-thodox - turn - the side that has atracted so many superters in this country, is they seek to have away from the pereived Tavener the spiritual qualities of Orthodoxy and in and art alike: "Vhen I see a harmal succession painting of the Mother and Child I see is a fat Italian laby, wonderfully encuted. Such a picure conveys no declogy - which an icon vill

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always to to do because it is not stiv-ing to be restric."

With this to-basics" quality, it ses itself as the cru church from which the Catholics broke away, just as the Protetants later broke away from Rome. In otier words, no agzags here. As Peter France notes in his Journey. "The Orthodo: church conference by account of being. trendy." In some respects, that is true. None the less, events fashions come and go, the confident traquillity that the Church offers is more indemand than for many years. The Church carcely changes, just as the art has chanced only imperceptibly over the years. It des not need to go to the people; the people come to it.

The Art of Hily Russia at the Royal Acadarch to 14 June. 10am to 6pm daily, wit extended opening to 8.30pm

DILEMMAS

Keep quiet about the neighbour from hell — let the buyer beware



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

ways used to like playing earlied cases like these it is usually bet-Old Maid. You took out all the ter to leave such things to the Queens except the Queen of Spades, dealt the cards and, top side up and fanned out, you offered your hand to the person on your left who had to take one. The aim was to get rid of the Queen of Spades. It was extremely entertaining to see how people presented it - some nonchalantly hidden behind another card, some doublebluffing and sticking it out obviously, some tucking it behind. As soon as you got a double you could get rid of two of your cards but someone was always left with the one Queen - and became Old Maid.

Clara's problem reminds me of this game. Except unlike the players of the card game she's tempted to draw attention to the Queen of Spades, not the point

Why should she say anything? If this couple are so broke or cheese-paring to do their own conveyancing, they have to live with the consequences. They will learn, as we

Clara and her husband have wanted to move from their flat since they moved in. The freeholder throws water over them if they go into their garden, they can't get an extension built because she blocks it due to a badly-written lease. Now a lovely pregnant couple want to buy, doing their own conveyancing. Should Clara warn them?

professionals. How does she know, anyway, that, rather than her landlady/freeholder being the neighbour from hell, they themselves aren't the neighbours from hell, and that far from being the delightful flatowners they think they are they may be driving the poor woman mad with their peculiar behav-

Dear Virginia, This is a very

tricky problem but it concerns

me. I can't give you my name as

When I was about 14 my

brother came into my room oc-

casionally and after a while we

had sex. I was too young to en-

joy it very much but I didn't mind

it, and when he got a girlfriend

after about a year he stopped.

Hook back on my childhood and find it filled with things that peo-

you will understand.

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

THERE was a card game I al- all learn, the hard way; that in iour. Maybe the woman would behave completely differently if there were a young baby on the scene. Unlikely, I know, but

quite possible. We have all had to learn lessons in our youth and very few people help us out. We've all bought scent from a tout in Oxford Street and found it was just water, we've all bought soap and dusters at the door from people selling for religious Finally I told the dealer the

flasher at eight. A groping un-

de who'd tickle me in parts I

suffered at all, I have a wonderful

marriage, a happy sex-life, and

three wonderful children. I'm

worried, in other words, that I'm

not worried. Do you think all

this will suddenly catch up with

And yet I don't seem to have

didn't like being ticked.

ple would now call abuse. A Letters are welcome, and every-

soap turns to a kind of gritty stone and the dusters fray at the hems; I once even bought a dead tortoise from a market petshop that they persuaded me was just "asleep". We've all had to learn the hard lesson that when something's cheap we ought to be on our guard. I was in a similar position re-

cently when I had to sell a car

which had an intermittent fault.

It used to cut out suddenly whether going at 20mph or 60mph on a motorway. It was most unnerving and it was only because I knew the car well that I prevented several accidents. No garages could find the fault, even though they borrowed it for weeks. Only one garage even admitted it existed. Eventually I took it to a dealer. At the back of my mind I kept thinking of the parent who might buy the car for her son, who'd only just passed his test, and kill himself on the M4. I was in a cleft stick.

one who has a suggestion quot-

ed will be sent a bouquet from

Send comments and sug-

gestions to Virginia Ironside at

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a dilerrana of your own, please

organisations and found the problem and made him promise. The fact that the prospective conveyancing solicitor, they will on his mother's grave that he would warn potential buyers of the problem or make sure his garage sorted the problem out. the protection of legal advice on cerning landlord/acighbour ha-He promised. I have no doubt he never kept his promise and never meant to. I took the money and felt dreadful.

Clara and her husband could say to the couple that the landlady had been known to be a little difficult sometimes. That might salve their guilty consciences. But apart from that, they should remember the old Latin phrase Caveat Emptor -Let the buyer beware.

WHAT READERS SAY

When selling anything that is shoddy, inferior or second-rate your only hope is that a "mug flat with a restrictive lease and a longy neighbour in tow could only be sold to a mug. Unless your prospective buyer asks pertinent and direct questions about the lease, the neighbour or planning restrictions I would not raise these matters at all. If they do ask these frankly obvious questions then more fool

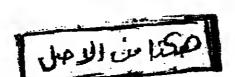
Mr Maynard Chitty,

Grit your teeth, bite the bullet, put a pillow in your mouth to muffle the screams of your raging conscience and exchange contracts. Did the previous owner warn you about your psychotic neighbour? Would you have moved in if they had? Thought not. Jamie Same,

buyers are "doing their own be walking into a minefield. conveyancing" shows what fool- Such a solicitor would raise all ish innocents they are. Without the necessary inquiries con-

usatisfactory terms of the . lese, all of which would probphspective buyers to their senscand the sale going off.
Aftur Warham, Blackpool

leasehold intricities from a good rassment, and advise on the THE INDEPENDENT STORAGE BAGS Choice of 3 sizes from only £6.95 inc p&p. Save nearly £4.00 if all 3 sizes are ordered These super storage bags are a great way to store out of seasons clothes, bedding, shoes, toys, books and more, making available valuable space to wardrobes and drawers. These tough storage bags are made from many polythene so they are fully resistant to damp, it is and moths and can be stowed away in the garage, loft or shed without any worries. Also handy for use Please send use____SMALL STORAGE BAG(S) @ \$5 cach on camping and louring trips. Please send me MEDIUM STORAGE BAC(S) @r.95 each Each bag has strong double zips, carrying handles and a handy transparent panel for labelling the con-Messes send me____LARGE STORAGE BAG(S) @ 515 cach Please send me_____SET OF 3 BAGS @ £19.95 each l'enclore a capacet cheque for £________(add payable to: NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING IND299 Finished in blue with red zips they are available in free sizes: Small 16" x 16" x 16" fox £6.85, Medium 25 x 12° x 10° for £7.95 and Large 42° x 18° x 5° for or debit my Account visa account by this amount. My cani taker is: \$2.95. Save nearly £4.00 when ordering all time sizes for £19.95. All prices include delivery and VAI. HOW TO ORDER TRU in the compose in SELOCIK CAPITALS and send together with changes or posted orders. NO CASH PLEASE to: THE INDEPENDENT STORAGE BAG OFFER, 27 OSTERLEY VEWS, WEST PARK BOAD, SOUTHALL, MIDDLESEX UE24UR. 22 For credit and criers plane plane 6181, 571, 1990 Send hat THE INDEPENDENT STORAGE BAG OFFER. Delivery to U.K. addrases only. "Phone 0183 571 6308 for all camplein Plants allow up to 21 days for delivery. If you are not completely satisf please return within 7 days of accept for a full return.



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The man who built the future

Creating the fantastic capital city Brasilia was the highlight of Oscar Niemeyer's career, but his work did not stop there, as he tells Nonie Niesewand

IN HIS shabby, Sixties-style, top-floor flat in Rio, architect Oscar Niemeyer is musand no his long life after being told he has won the Royal Institute for British Architecture's gold medal for architecture. "I've spent my entire life at the drawing board just thinking about architecture," says the 91-year-old. Now he's "very, very happy".

Niemeyer was in a very different frame of mind when I interviewed him just in December. Then, he said mountfully: "There's nothing to celebrate. It's terrible being old." Nnt so terrible when you have just won one of the most prestigious awards in the world. As the medal citation puts it: "At the opening of the century, Oscar Niemeyer expressed the challenge of the new harizon. and his work was suffused in optimism and hope. At the opening of the next millennium, modern architecture is perhaps set tn regain something of that optimism."

In Brasilia, the capital city he carved out of the savannah in the Fifties, Niemeyer has long been lauded. There was samba in the streets in his honour and a carnival to celebrate a decade as a World Monument site, along with the 300-year-old Great Wall

Longevity has not blocked Niemeyer's creativity. On a clear day in Rio, he can point out his latest project across the bay, the museum of modern art in Niteroi, which landed on a rocky promontory like a flying saucer last year. The outer rim is a walkway, the segmented core for sculpture and partitions for paintings. It cannot have been architecture that was more expressive." casy for the curator, but the people love it. Armed with a magic marker, Niemeyer sketches for me the seminal buildings of his commission of the century from President



Niemeyer, above, designed his cathedral in Brasilia, above right, in order to 'avoid the old dim cathedrals that remind you of sin'

60-year-old career. Some of them, such as the Oxford college he bineprinted or the desert city in Israel, both designed in the Seventies, never got off the drawing board. First, he sketches Pampulha town,

which he began in 1940, just three years after setting up his practice in Rio. He had already decided that modern architecture did not express itself well in concrete. "Monogamous, rationalist, repetitive," he says dismissively. On this, his first project, he used cement to bring a sense of structural lightness to his building. "Reinforced concrete freed creative expression. We pushed it to its sculptural limits to make

Creating Brasilia - the city where he gave expressive form to function - was the Juscelino Kubitschek, who ran up a debt with the World Bank to build a showcase in the desolate landscape. A competition for the town plan was won by Lucin Costa (Sir William Halfard of RIBA was one of the judges). He drew it in the shape of a fish skeleton: airports and cemeteries in the tail an arterial road for the backbone, diagonal fish bones leading to the residential areas that feed the head and, like a glassy eye, a white marble square flanked by Congress, the Legislative Assembly and ministries.

"In 1952 Brasilia was a desert, bostile, no road, nothing. It was the end of the world," says Niemeyer. At the Palacio Planalto, the seat of government, he set slender columns wide apart and imagined himself walking between them as a way to reach the desired form. "I wasn't concerned with structural

rigour," he says. Sometimes, he anchored seemingly fragile buildings in water. Diplomats walk over the water, set about with Amazonian lilies by genius gardener Roberto Burle Marx. They go to the theatre in a pyramid studded with an overall bump basrelief which casts interesting shadows. The executive council works in a building shaped like an executive toy, with cats' cradle tensile wires rigged to a square frame, and the flat roof of the legislative assembly is topped with two huge cement bowls.

No matter how monumental, the buildings appear to hover above the red earth on these stiletto-shaped columns. Niemeyer says: "When someone goes to Brasilia, I warn them, like it or not, you won't he able to say you've seen something like it before."

The cathedral is a tepee, whaleboned in

white cement and filled in with turquoise, indigo and aquamarine glass clouds and doves. "I avoided the old dim cathedrals that remind you of sin and made the access a narrow darkened gallery, so that when you step into the stained-glass nave, you open up to infinity," he says. Yet Niemeyer insists he has no faith. Politics is more important to him. A life-lung communist, he wants a society without class barriers.

Ironically, four years after creating this powerful seat for a left-wing government. a military junta took over, remaining for 20 years. Niemeyer flitted in and out of South America for years, working in France and Algeria and for Italian publishers Montadori, where he varied the columns in size like a musical score. " I showed them what could be done in rein-

forced concrete," he reminisces on stretching the span from 50 metres to 55 metres and thinning it down at the Algerian University to the horror of a French official. "That's why Brasilia was a positive thing for the Brazilian people. It gave the world the idea that we could do many things".

Photographs: Camera Press/RHPL

On his return, he made more monuments but this time with a political message. First there was the Kubitschek catafalque in Brasilia, in memory of his life-long friend. Then the Monument Volta Dedonda north of Rio, in honour of the workers during that time. In Sao Paulo, a monument of a gigantic hand with blood running from it was designed by Niemeyer to give Latin America a new sense of cultural identity. No need to ask him what he sees as a monument to himself. He's got Brasilia.

Take nine architects...

Youth and ambition are at the heart of project to rebuild part of west London

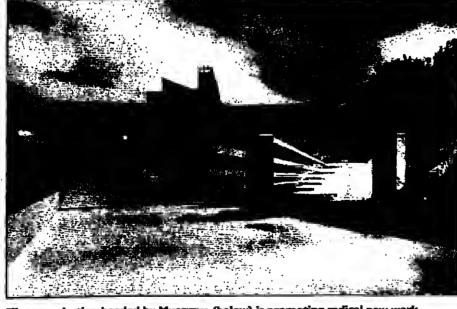
IN A rubble-filled strip of sand that passes for a London riverside beach, small boys use sticks to push anything that floats into the Thames. That includes a dead cat and a lot of plastic bottles, writes Nonie Niesewand. To get on to the beach, they made a giddying assault on the high stone walls built to prevent people from straying near the water, let alone even glimpsing it. Just walking at the water's edge means a detour because the waterfront is blocked by a wharf.

The roar of the traffic under nearby Hammersmith flyover booms like the sea, so you might as well go under Hammersmith flyover for all the pleasure of this riverside walk. Except that women are frightened of the subways.

The site is just one of nine blots on the west London landscape which Hammersmith and Fulham council wants in be rid nf by throwing mnney and arhitects at them. The first task, however, is to canvass local opinion, and the Architecture

Foundation has been brought in. The organisation, launched seven years ago to promote discussion and understanding of the built environment, first became involved in Hammersmith by hosting a roadshow. Environment minister Nick Raynsford went along, as did the former Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer and architect Lord Richard Rogers, a launch member of the Foundation and now its chairman.

But once all the photo-calls are over, the person responsible for making this sort of event succeed is Lucy Musgrave. She has the tough job of touring the pouncil estates to get recalcifrant residents to turn out and tell the experts what they like or dislike. Wormwood Scrubs was the worst, she says with people shouting at her to leave. She'd have like to know what they think: the Scrubs, after all,



The organisation headed by Musgrave (below) is promoting radical new work

is nnt just a prison, but a neighbouring open space which is the most underused in the borough. At the Riverside Studios last Saturday the response was much much better. Fifty-eight local people turned up to write

everyone wants in stay closed. Improved access to the river. More litter collection. Less Chris Evans and TFI Friday, which brings a huge audience and their cars around the Riverside studios each week.



the bridge to stay closed, better access to the river, more litter collection

Everyone wants

down what they wanted. More. reeds, ducks, playground equipment, lights in the subway. Tranquil corners and quiet places. A mini eco-farm. Safer stairs down to the beach by Hammersmith Bridge which

On hand to hear their problems was a council co-ordinator and the young architect desig-

nated to the project, Robert

Barnes, an artist working in

vitalise the riverside walk between Hammersmith Bridge and Queen Caroline Street. When all nine schemes are in. the Council will determine how much money in allocate each. They are committed to spending some in each area but the hetter the local response, the more money goes their way.

sues in a series of schemes to re-

Lucy Musgrave is trying to take architecture off its pedestal and get a dialogue going with the people who must live with it. When she began at the Architecture Foundation, she booked Westminster Hall for an open forum on London. It was enormously successful.

Now this could be a blueprint for the nation. At the end of May a one-day symposium will be held to review the results of the previous two months and politicians, architects and planners will assess what has been achieved. n The Architecture Foundation's latest exhibition is New Architects - Britain's best young architeclight, and a landscape designer. tural practices, from 24 March at They will address all of these is- 30 Bury Street, London SW1.

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Blair-Brown split that never was

TONY'S in a jealous rage - says conventional wisdom. Gordon is in the driving seat; he is the real Prime Minister. The wall that separates Numbers 10 and 11 Downing Street is plastered with suspicion and papered with rivalry. So say the pundits, and what else - after the general enthusiasm at Gordon Brown's Budget on Tuesday - do right-wing commentators have to go on? It's the birth of Brownism, they cry, though Tony stayed his hand over Individual Savings Accounts and Tony is the real friend of the middle

It is certainly true that the two derive from different political traditions and that their instincts incline them to different audiences. Where Blair really does have a feel for Middle England, and is at home with the Home Counties, Brown is a Scottish Labour man. The Chancellor is steeped in Labour culture, so that it has coloured his mind and emotions: the Prime Minister has hardly been dunked in it for longer than the average teabag.

But no two politicians are identical. These two, at least, spent years engaged in a strikingly intimate political conversation about modernisation: and it is the fruit of that conversation, not their earlier political education, that drives Blair and Brown's New Labour. Brown's Budget was an instalment on the social market project fashioned jointly with Blair in Opposition.

To reports of petty remarks by one man about the other (or, more likely, by their staffs) the response has to be this: rivalry between Chancellor and Prime Minister is virtually built into our constitution. Number 11 has been filled several times before now by men who had been pipped for the leadership and still harboured ambitions. Think of Jim Callaghan. If Gordon Brown is now convening policy seminars in his front room, is that so very different from Callaghan's picking of Nuffield College's finest brains in the mid-Sixties or Lord Lawson's think-tanking in the late Eighdes? Farther back still, Hugh Dalton did not relinquish his membership of the Fabian Society on becoming Chancellor, nor his ambition to succeed Clement Attice. It would indeed be abnormal, and probably unwelcome too, were Gordon Brown not to have his eye on the main chance,

The interesting question is whether he and Tony Blair do differ either in philosophy, approach or tactics. And here the evidence is compelling. They not only share the same hig picture, but complement each other skilfully day to day. If we ought to label Gordon Brown's antecedents more obviously "socialist", there is nowadays nothing identifiably more left-wing about his beliefs. Together they accept the limits to government action to "manage" an internationalised economy; they believe that labour-market reform is the key area for policy; both see how, notwithstanding the historical allegiance British business has shown to the Conservatives, it can be Labour's working partner.

It's handy to present Mr Brown as a dour Presbyterian who believes everyone holds their salvation in their own hands and that, in the modern, secular world, emancipation comes through earned income, meaning a job. He does think this. But every part of that code is shared by the almost-Catholic Prime Minister, especially the belief that collective action (government) retains a key role even in an individualised world. Its job is to help people on their way towards realisation of their personal and family ambitions. For ocither man is the death of class rhetoric a painful loss.

It long ago dawned on Tony Blair that Labour could never win a general election without a specific and consistent effort to reach out to "Middle England", to those conveniently if narrowly defined as readers of the Daily Mail. These people had to be wooed, flattered and above all reassured: their repugnance at Tory failure would not be enough by itself. This project Tony Blair has made his own. Having woo the election, the oeed to keep this constituency oo side has not diminished: it explains much of Mr Blair's body language and rhetorical flourishes and perhaps goes some way to exculpate him from the sin of sharing a far too narrow bed with Rupert Murdoch. The phrase is "giving cover". Tony Blair gives his Cabinet colleagues more political space than they would enjoy by themselves - not covertly to engage in acts of socialism but to get oo with the task of capitalist management the Government has set itself. This is exactly what Gordoo Brown has enjoyed, thanks to the Prime Minister. Whether the Blair analysis about Middle England is correct is debatable, especially in the light of recent poll evidence in favour of genuinely redistributionist tax policies. As a tactic however it makes a lot of sense. It may even suit this government's purposes to read a stream of stories about Blair-Brown splits - the good cop, bad cop routine gives them both room for manoeuvre. Which is the best reason why we should be suspicious of such stories. These two meo may not love each other but as a political team they have lately been formidable.

Pray or pay at Abbey

WESTMINSTER Abbey is to charge visitors an admission fee of £5, but waive the fee for those who want to use the church for prayer. This raises the question of how the beadles at the West Door will perform the act of triage - distinguishing mere tourists from those with religious intent. And they must not let themselves be caught out by those arty types to whom gazing on Baroque sculpture or contemplating a soaring chancel equates to a spiritual experience.

Perhaps anyone in a leisure shirt or trainers gets shut out. But this runs against the Church of England's more relaxed and family-friendly ethos, which means that on a suburban Sunday worshippers are often more casually dressed than people in the street. Alternatively the door-keepers might look for signs of sanctity, an earnest desire for intercession or perhaps a protruding halo. Then again, everyone entering the hallowed portal might be forced to pay up and a refund be offered to those observed in prayerful attitude for a stipulated period of time. Perhaps the Dean could devise some sort of holy barometer and set it up in the Abbey rafters.

Alternatively Westminster Abbey, a national treasure, could be nationalised and, given a proper budget for repairs and maintenance, and could, in the spirit of the British Museum and National Gallery, charge



Fishermen hauling their nets in the Aegean sea off the Greek island of Lesbos

Photograph: Mykel Nicolaou A 9x12 print of this photograph can be ordered on 0171-293 2534

Safety of acupuncture

AS ONE who was present at the meeting oo acapuncture that you reported on 17 March ("Doctors warn of injuries from acupuncture"), I can testify that the session on safety was the least satisfactory of the conference.

We had oo cootext in which to udge the average of 10 adverse events reported annually from around the world. Did this make acupuncture safer than drug treatment? Most likely, according to Professor Erust. How many incidents related to the UK, and how old were they? This wasn't known. Were doctors implicated in causing injury, as well as nonmedical practitioners? Yes, as a matter of record. Could we be sure that the complications reported stemmed from the acupuncture treatment? Not alays. The evidence was too ahecdo tal to be of much help to anybody.

More concrete were the indications of acupuncture's effectiveness in the treatment of pain, nausea and vomiting, and possibly stroke rehabilitation and other conditions. It was a pity your reporting presented a picture which could only put patients off. Also presented to us were the horrifying hospitalisation statistics as a result of conventional medical treatment. Since when has it been demanded of "cult therapies", as you describe one of the oldest of medical professions, that they alone must be free from all adverse effects?

In fact it was clear from Dr Rampes' presentation that the issues were ones of training, for medics and non-medics alike, rather than danger from acupuncture as such. Your readers will want to know that these issues are being addressed, both by the British Medical Acupuncture Society and by this Board in conjunction with the British Acupuncture Council, who have had schemes of accreditation up and running for some time. There is no complacency, but there is a need for the sake of the patients to get the matter in

Earl BALDWIN OF BEWDLEY Chair, British Acupuncture Accreditation Board

YOU ARE right to regard alterna-

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

medicine is fine as long as it does oo needs of the individual. actual harm" (leading article, 17

Even if an alternative practitioner is highly skilled, there is always a risk that the patient, with or without prompting by the practitioner, will avoid orthodox medicine altogether, which in some cases may be essential to their survival.

Alternative therapies can also cause harm in more subtle ways. They engender suspicion of orthoclaims about harmful side-effects and the ingestion of toxins. They introduce back into medicine concepts of magic and superstition from which doctors have freed themselves after centuries of effort. We should not let the placebo rule our health. Dr SIMON JONES London SW12

Waiting to die!

SHEILA HAYDEN'S letter (16 March) paints a picture of rheumyeyed elderly people sitting around waiting to die. But it doesn't have to be that way. Those of us who are in a position to help change the future of residential care should take steps now to ensure that care is driven by the needs and wishes of residents, rather than what is convenient for management and staff,

The Abbeyfield Society, a charity which runs more than 60 residential care homes, has conducted research to find out what residents actually want from providers of care and housing. The results make salutary reading. It is clear that, in general, respondents were happy with the quality of services received, but nevertheless there was plenty of evidence to suggest that minority preferences often go unacknowledged. We are now planning to implement appropriate change. Long life can be worth it, but only if care providers

is not always true that "alternative" tention to the physical and mental ANGELA WHITCHER Head of Public Affairs The Abbeyfield Society St Albans, Hertfordshire

> HOORAY for Sheila Hayden! I am a healthy (I think) 67-year-old and intend to live my life the way I want it -to enjoy all the "sinful" things which ' make life more enjoyable - chocolate, fry-ups, salt, butter and so on. I hope The Open University I shall go our with a bang and not Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire is doing, in a home for the elderly. I hope that, if I do live long enough to find myself lingering on, legislation will have been passed that will allow me to end my own life legally.

MARGARET CHILD Bingley, West Yorkshire.

SHEILA HAYDEN is right. It's critical Christians in the play come the quality of life that counts. And unlike many relatives, she is both compassionate and honest. A "sans everything" old age can be torture for relatives - although most are unwilling to admit it. I'm 76 and marginally "sans". I'm looking for a sions? Fed with the same food... nursing home which allows unlimited access to Greene King draught Abbot, "Veterano" brandy and Tbone steaks. Any offers? KENCLARK

Radical Sixties

THE IMPORTANCE of the single year 1968 has always been greatly over-rated, compared with the truly significant social and cultural (though not political) transformation of the entire period 1958-1973 ("the long Sixties").

James Maycock's evocation of the Grosvenor Square demonstration of March 1968 ("Flower Powerdess", 17 March) performs a useful service in drawing attention to how ambivalent the utterances of leading rock singers tive therapies with scepticism, but it give life value by paying careful at- were; there never was a unified

"counter culture" lined up in dialectical opposition to "bourgeois society". Maycock might also have mentioned the dogmatic tosh being spouted by Tariq Ali about capitalist crises and the imminence of revolution.

C'était magnifique, but it wasn't revolution. Meantime the true revolution - in living standards, values, relationships - was affecting everyone. ARTHUR MARWICK The States Research Group

No racist 'Merchant'

SHAKESPEARE was too wise to base The Merchant of Venice oo blatant racial prejudice, rampant though it was in Tudor days (report, 14 March; letters, 16, 17 March).

Most of the unctuous and hypooff rather badly and in Act III Shakespeare gives Shylock those lines that are the ultimate put-down of anti-Semitism: "Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath oot a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, pas-

As for Portia's overquoted "quality of mercy" speech, what of the shred of mercy shown to Shylock? The most dramatic utterance of the play must be Shylock's last words. "I pray you give me leave to go from hence/I am not well". BARRY HAISMAN Stainsacre, North Yorkshire

Are we welcome?

IT IS good to learn (Letters, 14 March) that your hoped-for readership among the "young, professional, high-income, educated" includes the "young in spirit". Can those whose wealth is other than pecuniary also hope for a look-in? ANN SHEARER London NW3

[Yes. Rich in spirit welcome too.

Off the road

PICTURE OF THE DAY

I DID NOT recognise myself in Nicholas Schooo's article "Why offroad' vehicles should get off my road and off my planet" (16 March).

I have a 4WD, which is 10 years old. It is a good people-carrier, enjoyed as much by the grandchildren on the school run as more sedate folk on long luggage-laden journeys. It accommodates up to seven people, with easy access for a semi-cripple, and has the most comfortable driving positioo I have ever found. The view of the road makes for safer driving. and passengers can eojoy looking, (, over fledges and fences. As for being a gas-guzzler, our vehicle's fuel consumption compares favourably with most large family cars.

Living as we do in the depths of off Mr Schoon's planet. JOSEPH M RUTTER Shaftesbury, Dorset

THE UK has two areas where ORV ownership is concentrated: London, where Range Rovers and the like are only a rather pathetic statement of status, and Shetland, where they are used for their real purpose and form a vital piece of working equipment for shepherds, fishermen and crofters. STEPHEN HOWARTH

Shelton, Nottinghamshire

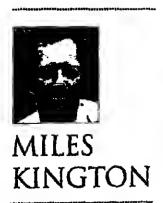
Spring in Japan

YOUR PICTURE for 1950 (The Eye, 16 March) shows the Return of Spring Festival of Saidai Temple, held on 3 February each year. The two batons, about a foot long, are thrown into the crowd at midnight. The man who succeeds in finding one in the melée attempts to conceal it, runs to a house marked by a white lantern and buries the baton in a container of uncooked rice that is waiting there. This confers good luck on the house and those that dwell there. The batons are returned to the temple and the find-

ers of the batons are rewarded. The photographer is presumably Tamotsu Yato, who illustrated a book on the so-called naked festivals of Japan.

ALAN FORGAN Guildford, Surrey

All your Budget questions answered - no matter how selfish or narrow-minded



JUST HOW will the Budget affect me? That is the question asked by people after every Budget, and a damned selfish, narrow-minded, enerous question it is too, but that is neither here nor there, because today we have a panel of experts in this column to answer that very question, in other words: Just how will the Budget affect me? And our questions come from right across the social spectrum... Dear Panel of Experts, I wonder if you can help me? I am a typical Tory ex-uninister who once had a secure job under the last government, beloing to sell arms to the Middle East and toadying up to the Saudi Arabian government. However, my fortunes took a tumble when I withdrew a libel action against The Guardian, and recently I have been reduced to fending off possible arrest for perjury. My income has obviously taken a bit of a tumble in all this hoo-ha. What I want to know is this: if no fault of their own, are still not able to

debt problems, is there anything in the latest Budget which would help me?

Not really. Dear Panel of Experts, I wonder if you can help me? I am a middle-aged woman who would like to follow Gordon Brown's advice and get back to work. At present I am the companion to the Prince of Wales, who will be the next King of England, and this of course is pretty hard work in its own way as anyone who has been constant companion to the future King will testify. though only Mrs Wallis Simpson comes to mind as an example, which is perhaps not a cheering thought, but what I want to know is this: is there any succour in the recent Budget for those of us who have given up our lives to caring for and looking after middle-aged men who, through

things get any worse, and I get into bad take over the job for which they have been names and addresses of everyone I contrained since youth? Not really.

Dear Panel of Experts, I am the controller of a large radio network which recently decided to have a major facelift. In order to gauge the opinions of the listeners to our network, I travelled the length and breadth of Britain consulting with, talking to and even - when I had time - listening to what our listeners had to say. This of course involved an immense amount of travel, for which the money had to be found by shaving the budgets of other programmes, and I did all the travelling in an unmarked company car, no different from other cars except for a suggestion box clamped to the back. I cannot make out from the latest Budget whether I can claim for all this traycl as a tax concession or a company allowance, and whether I have to submit the

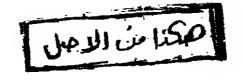
sulted, whereas it would be much easier to just put down: "Middle England". Can you advise me oo this?

Dear Panel of Experts, I am a Newcastle United director who makes a living out of taking the punters for a ride. After the recent Budget, can I claim that ride as a legitimate travel expense? Not really.

Dear Panel of Experts, We are five girls who have recently made a fortune out of travelling the world as a group, making films and best-selling records, etc. However, this will not last for ever and one day we shall probably have to do some proper work, as it looks silly to go into retirement in your mid-twenties. The trouble is that we have received no training to do any proper work, and the only thing we can See you next Budget Day!

do really well is stand in a line, and locate the nearest microphone. Is there anything in the latest Budget which will help us retrain for real life and get back to the work which Mr Gordoz Brown so much wants everyone to embrace?

Dear Panel of Experts, Now that PEPs and TESSAs seem to be oo the way out, I am told it is a good time to invest in new schemes such as ARFURs, PIP EMMAS and LAMONTs. But what are these? An ARFUR is an Automatic Ring-Fenced Unit Resource. A PIP EMMA is a Private Insurance Policy Endowment Medium Managed Amount A LAMONT is a Large Amount of Money Offloaded by the National Treasury. Dear Panel of Experts, Yes, but have you any idea what they all actually are? None at all.



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Is being Foreign Secretary still the best job in the Cabinet?



RUPERT CORNWELL ON ROBIN COOK AT HAR HOMA

AH, the chauffeured limousines and government aircraft, and the round of international conferences. And what can match the exhilarating sense of escape from narrow domestic politics to the great stage beyond, helping Britain "punch above its weight" in world affairs? No wonder the Foreign Office is reckoned the best joh in the Cabinet, short of being Prime Minister. But do oot be deceived. Day in and day out, it is also the most punishing job in government, barring perhaps that of Prime Minister. The schedule is crammed. the paperwork is monstrous, and the travelling constant. And all the while, a Foreign Secretary becomes aware that his work is mostly conveyer belt stuff. He will leave no monument behind no testament to those exhausting years of service.

Except for moments like Tuesday, and what will surely he contender for the news picture of 1998: Robin Cook, in the middle of a threeday, six-country swing through the Middle East clineing to his dignity by his fingernails as the rain lashed down on the heights of Har Homa, the hecklers heckled, and hard-faced Israeli security men twice his size helped him to the safety of his car. And to cap everything, cancellation of dinner with Benjamin Netanyalm (though whether Mr Netanyahu is a man you'd want as a dinner companion must be debatable - the things ooe has to do for Britain).

For all of this Mr Cook is being roasted. He is said to have single-handedly destroyed Europe's chances of mediating in the Middle East. He stands accused of that capital offence for a diplomat of "offending all sides at once". The words "fiasco" and "diplomatic disaster" are much bandied about. Once more we are reminded of Mr Cook's clumsy foray into the: Kashmir dispute which half-wrecked the Queen's visit to the India and Pakistan last year. Then there was the brusque dismissal of his wife of 28 years, and the bizarre and demeaning trashing of his former diary secretary during a press conference in Brussels... And, last but not least, the contrast between between words and deeds in the conduct of New Labour's "ethical foreign policy", in Asia above all.

This time moreover, the Americans are huffing and puffing. State Departmeor spokesmen murmur how Mr Cook's performance has "not helped" what is still referred to in polite circles as the "Middle East peace process". So much for Britain and the EU as hooest broker. The day after Har Homa, his speech to the Anglo-Arab Association on 5 March has an almost comical ring. "Europe has an important part in the Middle East peace process ... Tonight I start an intensive European effort to stimulate progress ... We can give the process a helpful nudge." Some stimulation, some progress, some nudge. Clearly, it will be concluded, the man is a serial

blunderer, too convinced of his own intelligence to learn from his mistakes.

In fact, Tuesday's collision has been on the diplomatic railway tracks for weeks - certainly since Mr Cook' speech in London a fortnight ago setting out a new and expanded role for Europe in the search for peace in the Middle East. Last weekend, as Mr Netanyahu warned darkly of Europe not understanding the Middle East, his EU colleagues endorsed his idea and Mr Cook insisted he would go to Har Homa. As we all know, he did.

But the Foreign Secretary and the infloential pro-Arab lobby in the Foreign Office, the so-called "Camel Corps", are the lesser villains of the piece. Ultimately, blame for the mess lies with the Israelis; not so much the higots who daub "Anti-Semite" on the walls of the British Consulate, but a right-wing goverument that insists on its right to build settlements as and when it pleases, and its spokesmen who liken Mr Cook's greeting of a Palestinian official in East Jerusalem to a foreign dignitary on a visit to Britain, travelling specially to Belfast to shake the hand of Gerry Adams. Except that the most powerful foreign dignitary of all, President Bill Clinton, did precisely that in November 1995.

No, the plain truth is that as long as Mr Netanyahu remains prime minister of Israel and pursues his current policies, neither Britain nor the European Union - regarded as incorrigibly pro-Palestinian - nor even the United States, have a hope of brokering a deal acceptable to both sides. Indeed, the Netanyahu snub may be taken as warning to the US of what might happen, should Washington press too hard on the settlements. If

Benjamin Netanyahu as dinner companion the things one must do

Mr Cook's "diplomatic disaster" has illuminated to the world just how inflexible Israel , then so much the better.

The most serious consequence of the affair could be its impact on Mr Cook's political relationship with the Prime Minister, Next month Tony Blair visits Israel, Like Mr Cook he will be wearing a European as well as a British hat, Inevitably he will face the repercussions of this week's fracas. The word from Downing Street yesterday - and it could not be otherwise - was that the visit would be going ahead, and that Prime Minister backed his Foreign Secretary "totally". In fact, after its lonely support of American threats to use force against Israel's great foe Saddam Hinssein, Britain is in a stronger diplomatic position than might first appear.

. But let us for a moment suppose differently. Suppose Mr Blair, who in foreign affairs seems happiest when dispensing inoffensive and feel good platitudes, has been thrown out of his stride by the unseemly episodes of the last 24 hours. Suppose too, as happened with Margaret Thatcher and Francis Pym and later on Geoffrey Howe, the Prime Minister starts to lose confidence in his Foreign Secretary. That is the moment at which the most punishing job in the Cabinet starts to become impossible. We have not reached that point yet. Despite much informed whispering to the contrary, Mr Cook swears he loves his joh. But sometimes you sense his heart may not truly lie amid the splendours of King Charles Street. This week's scenes in Jerusalem might hasten the moment of his leaving them.

In love with the telephonic darling who monitors and screens my messages

John Walsh's sensitive verbal disposition has taken several hits this week, from BT operators to new American slang

MY BRITISH Telecom lady has lost the plot. The supercalm voice nn my phone, the one that monitors my messages and screens me from the outside world, has completely mislaid the storyline.

You know the person I mean? Maybe she turns up on your telephone too, the faithless hussy. I've considered her a close personal friend since I agreed to have the system installed, some mooths ago. I was entranced the first time I rang home and heard those primary-schoolmistress tones say, prissily: "Good evening. This is a Bee Tee answering service. There's no one here to take vonr call - but I can take a message for you ... " Her voice was so emphatic, her counciation so clear, she sounded like Shula in The Archers addressing a shed of Alhanian peasants.

It used to work like this. If callers had left messages, the phone would ring, or the dialling tone would hieep, to let you know. Then you rang 1571 to get your calls, and heard this tightly-buttoned BT minx (1 imagined a Chanel suit, a Kirsty Young bairstyle, a whiff of Trésor) offering you a range of exciting transcommunicatory possibilities. "Four messages. Hear them?," she'd ask in imperious tones. "Message timed at 6.45pm today. Hear that message? Repeat that message? Save that message?"

Yoo were expected to answer all her enquiries by saying "Yes" or "No" down the line, and woe betide you if you mumbled. She would come oo the line, say, "Sorry, I didn't understand that" and make cooing sweetly the while, rephrasing her instructions with increasing simplicity ("Would you like to save or remove that message?") in case you might be drunk or foreign. She taught you to mind your dictional Ps and Qs, to be decisive and forthright, to sit up straight and stop fidgeting.

Then she weot off me, grew cold and irritable, had attacks of PMT. Instead of the phone ringing to say there were messages waiting, a moody silence prevailed. The dialling



Photograph: Getty Images

tone snored away unconcerned. If you rang 1571, you'd get half of one message, aborted at random. Things went downhill fast. The voice I'd come to love hardeoed in tone, from Shula Archer in Ann Widdecombe, If she asked, "Remove that message?" it now sounded like an order. If you replied "Nn", she'd remove it anyway. Whatever you wanted, she'd do the opposite. You'd think we'd had a flaming row about housework or something.

Theo she affected to be deaf. Whatever you said, there'd be an eerie silence and she'd reply, sulkily, "I didn't understand that". Even if you eounciated your words like John Gielgud, she'd say, snottily, "I didn't understand that. Would you like to hear this message?". Yes, you'd snarl, yes, yes, yes, Goddammit. "Sorry. I didn't UNDER-STAND that," she snarled you repeat what yoo'd said, hack, suddenly standing revealed as Alex Forrest, the madwoman in Fatal Auroction, "DO YOU WISH TO HEAR THIS MESSAGE OR NOT?" Ten minutes later, her voice was breaking up and I was shouting abuse at a recording.

It couldn't go on. I had to get a BT man to take her away to the Answering Machine Funny Farm and have her attitude problem seco to. Uncomfortable thoughts of The Stepford Wives assail me day and night, especially the scene

ly want the tax inspectors to

know the answer to these ones-

tions? You only have to look at

the troubled history of the

Child Support Agency to realise

how disastrous it can be when

officials start to probe into the

details of people's personal

questions about Mr Brown's in-

tentions towards women. Does

be care about the distribution

of income within families as well

value unpaid work in the home

These points raise broader

ing perfectly, cooing helpfully and recording my messages as if nothing had happened. But what flash of humanity was revealed when her circuits crashed? And how can I stop this feeling of guilt that I've had her turned into a robot

AFTER inarticulate grunts. professional slang is perhaps the higgest irritant to the soul. After years speot wincing every time I heard voices on the radio discussing "Peps" and "Tessas", I learn we now have to discuss the pros and cons of things called "ISAs", which have replaced them. (""Doctor, I'm a hit worried about me icers ..."). Being asked about "cashbaek" at the Safeway eheckout, as if it oaturally to your lips, is enough to turn you into Paul Johnson, Carpet fitters who decide they can't nail down the Axminster round the edge of the room, say "I think we'll 'ave to PV5 it". Give me strength. But some hits of oewly minted slang are oddly appealing. Like the moment in a West End Seattle Coffee emporium during the week, when the woman beside me ordered

a large espresso to take away.

Withnut looking up, the

(American) girl behind the

White House worker, and Ed Bradley, the interrogator on CBS television's 60 Minutes. about yet another of President Clinton's alleged peccadillos. It wasn't just for what Ms Willey said, though God knows that was interesting ennugh, hut for what she didn't say. Let me remiod you: "He had his arms tight round me. He kissed me on my mouth and pulled me closer to him ... He touched my breasts with his hands and I was just startled." Indeed you were, madam. So far, so good. Then Bradley asks, Where, er, exactly, did he, ah ...? and Ms Willey replies that the wandering Presidential haod had seized her hand and clamped it on his (by oow surely rather battered after all these interns and researchers) groin. "Was he aroused?" inquired Bradley. "Uh-ha," replied Ms

And that was the end of the conversation. No really, that's actually how it finished, with Ms Willey's pitiless interviewer presumably quite satisfied with her reply. We in Britain, however, are not. Did she, for Chrissake, mean Yes

or No? (She wouldn't have lasted five minutes with the lady from the BT answering service.) Are we to be denied the truth of whether the priapic Prez clutched another Willey to his own, all because of that curious American fondness for non-verbal interchanges?

You know the kind of thing. if you say "thanks" to a New York waitress, she'll murmur "Mm-hm?" abstractedly on a rising lilt. Ask a garagehand in Denver if he can check your oil and he'll say, "Uh-limnh" (meaning "I would love to be of assistance, but sadly I have an appointment with my advanced cello teacher"). Say anythiog disobliging to a small American child and it'll protest with that awful whinging noise, "Ne-hahr".

It's oot a pretty record of inarticulacy, with the language of explanation, gratitude and protest all reduced to primeval of a piece with President Clinton, and his apparently Tourette-like manhandling of anyone in possession of a uterus - I mean anyone. White House job applicant, beauty queen, night-club singer, friend's wife, stenographer. colour co-ordinator, office eleaner, tea lady - who has ever straved into his Fondle

A true Budget for women would be much more radical



COYLE THE VALUE OF UNPAID WORK HAVE Gordon Brown and his all-male team of advisers at the tribution in the new Working Treasury come up trumps with his Budget for women? Not really, despite the increase in child henefit and the new work and childcare credits for the low

The Budget did mark, as Harriet Harman emphasised in a speech last night, the end of the assumption that families consist of a male breadwinner and a female helpmate in the home. The welfare state has been built on this tradition of unpaid female labour, whereas the new measures recognise that very many women are in paid work and need help with childcare.

There was other good news in the Chancellor's speech too. Apart from the large financial gains for children, we females of the species must breathe a sigh of relief that two potential catastrophes, which would have cost women hillions of pounds. have been averted, at least for now. After a huge amount of lobbying and ear-bending, the Chancellor accepted that the oew Working Families Tax Credit must guard against switching money within households from meo to women.

Yet the fact that both these financial disasters looked at one stage as though they might happen demonstrates how important it is to keep the Boy's Own Treasury on its guard. The lads simply do not have the gender impact of their proposals at the forefront of their minds.

Take the oarrow escape

tribution in the new Working Families Tax Credit, the replacement for Family Credit. The initial plans would have involved a "purse to wallet" transfer of up to £40 a week. Family Credit is paid direct to mothers whether they are the main earner or not. The new tax credit will go through the pay packet as a tax refund, and could have ended up going to men in many of the cases where it is claimed by couples rather than Inne parents. When it is introduced, couples will be able to nominate which of them should receive the money; but campaigners are still concerned about whether the pracdcal details will make this a genuine

choice in practice. The other hig threat to purses is one that might loom again in a future Budget. That is a return to joint taxation. Although Mr Brown says he does not plan to abandon the independent taxation of husbands and wives. a reform introduced by Nigel Lawson, the question will inevitably arise when he gets around to taxing child benefit - an intentioo he signalled

On the face of it, it is entirely unobjectionable to guarantee that child benefit will remain universal but tax h for high carners. And when you accept that, it seems to make sense to take into account the joint family income for tax purposes -after all, both incomes go to support the children, so why should nonearning wives of rich men get a just a good friend. Do we realhigher level of child benefit than the low-earning wife of a middle-income man?

The trouble with this reasonable view, which the Chancellor certainly holds, is that defending the principle of independent taxation is absolutely crucial to women. Any retreat from it will introduce a big tax rise-for women. At the extreme, a reversion to joint taxation would be equivalent to a 6 pence increase in the basic rate of income tax for working as between them? And does he

> The Boy's Own Treasury simply does not have the gender impact of its proposals at the front of its mind

income tax is assessed nn both incomes, the second earner to he no, whereas for women it starts to pay income tax oo her first pound - and at the higher rate if her husband is in the 40 per cent tax band. If she is taxed separately, she gets her own personal allowance so the first slice of income is tax free.

And quite apart from the money, there are other problems. What would the position of cohabiting couples be? The to be fairness within them. The Inland Revenue knows if you are married. It does not know whether you live with someooe -or, if you do, whether they are the father of your children or

The explanation is simple. If as much as paid work outside it? The answer to both appears

> needs to be yes. The first yes is why independent taxation matters, and the second explains why it is important for beoefits to be paid to the woman of the house rather than the man. A true Budget for women would accept that there has to be some unfairness between

households in order for there Chancellor has to forget about taxing wives for having well-off husbands. Any genuine reform of the

tax and benefits system would

acknowledge the value of unpaid domestic work. Although, as Ms Harman acknowledged, the traditional family of male earner and female housekeeper is a thing of the past, that unpaid work still needs to be done and be valued. After all, domestic effort amnunts to at least half of total measured national income on the most cautious official estimate and more likely matches the money economy in size. Women do twice as much of this unpaid work as men - an average of nearly 300 minutes a day versus men's 150 minutes. But although we must wholeheartedly welcome the extra mnney he fnund to give to mothers and carers, by incentives to work Mr Brown means incentives for paid work.

My proposal far a Budget for Women would be higher taxes on rich men to pay for a far bigger increase in resources for childcare both in and nut nf the hnme. While generous child benefit is a lot tamer than the old feminist demand of wages for housework, it is better than peanuts for house-

A rise to the top rate of income tax would have the perfect gender profile. Sadly, some redistributive measures have been struck off the agenda, even for a Labour Chancellor who has turned out, against the odds, to be willing to take money from the rich and give it to the poor. Taking it from men to give to women is obviously a hit too radical.



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the world's oldest working potters, has died at the age of 105. In all aspects of her life Wood was equally canable of shocking by either her outrageous remarks, her life style, or her choice of lovers and friends.

A recent photograph of her at work on the potter's wheel captures her in typical pose. adorned in a turquoise blue. loosely fitting sari, a huge silver necklace, large carrings and neatly applied lipstick. Few potters wear such exotic costume for such an earthy task. The title of her 1985 autobiography, I Shock Myself, suggests nonconformity in her life and art. an approach borne nut by her remark that she owed her longevity to "chocolates and young men".

Born in San Francisco and brought up in New York, she alarmed her wealthy parents by her early concern with art and an offbeat life. Aged 18 she escaped to Paris to study at the Academic Julien and later to perform at the Comedie Française, making friends with many avant-garde artists. Back in New York she maintained contact with European artists including Francis Picahia and Man Ray. with American new wave artists such as Charles Sheeler, and the film star Myrna Loy.

Her closest companion was Marcel Duchamp, and, along

BEATRICE WOOD, one of writer Henri-Pierre Roché, she founded and wrote for Blind Man, a journal which supported the Dada movement in New York. Encouraged by Duchamp, who was reputed to be her lover - a fact she neither verified or disputed - Wood took up drawing. Often known as the "mama of dada", she was also thought to be part of a ménage à trois with Duchamp and Roché, later inspiring François Truffaut's 1961 film Jules et Jim.

In response to family pres-

sure Wood married her first hushand, a theatre manager from Montreal, in 1919, but the marriage was declared void when it was discovered that he already had a wife living in Belgium. Her second marriage, in 1938. to Steve Hogg, an engineer, was one of convenience in that it allowed them in apply for Red Cross funding when the house they had bought together in North Hollywood was washed away in a flood. Although they lived together until his death in 1960. Wood claimed the marriage was unconsummated, saying that she had loved seven men she didn't marry, and married two men she didn't love.

It was not until the late 1920s that Wood took up ceramics, spurred on by failing to find a teapot to match some neo-rococo lustre-glazed plates. Following a course at Hollywood High School she began to research into lustre glaze tech- and materials, often shocking



Wood: the 'mama of dada', she described herself as a 'terrible craftswoman'

niques, a highly skilled process which was to remain a major characteristic of her ceramics.

In fact, she did not make teapots at this time, but freely modelled figurines which sold well and helped her survive the Depression. Her deepest involvement with ceramics came in the early 1940s when she studied with Glen Lukens and the Austrian ceramists Gertrude and Otto Natzler.

Working from a small studio in Ojai, California, she had an idiosyncratic approach to form the generally conservative world vessel-based forms and sculpof ceramics by her sense of experiment and innovation.

She was never impressed by notions of perfectionism, arguing that "knowing what one's about to take out of a kiln is as exciting as being married to a radical. Anais Nin described boring and predictable man". and she freely admitted to being a "terrible craftswoman". Her chalices, bowls and vases, some with stylised figurative drawings, were not intended to be used, but to be beautiful in

and Claudius to Peter O'Toole's

Seasons at the Old Vic in

London led to a Russian tour

in 1961. King taught himself

Russian in advance, and when,

tural ceramics which is her greatest strength and fascination. Some, such as the ceramic

sculptor Peter Voulkos, responded positively, seeing her ceramics as valid, unique and Wood as "a modern ceramist creating objects today which would enhance your life".

There was also a quieter, less flamboyant aspect to Wood's character. A vegetarian who neither smoked nor drank, in 1913 their own right. But it is this she became a member of the sense of individual vision of her Theosophist movement, and in

Photograph: Garth Clark Gallery

1948 she moved to Ojai to be near the charismatic Indian

sage Krishnamurti. Public recognition, though late in her life, was fulsome, culminating in a show at the American Craft Museum in New York in the 1990s. In 1994 Pete Wilson, Governor of California, declared Beatrice Wood a "California Living Treasure".

Emmanuel Cooper

Beatrice Wood, patter: born San Francisco 3 March 1893; married secandly 1938 Steve Hogg (died 1960); died Ojai, California 12 March 1998.

James Smeall

JAMES SMEALL was Princi- to universities, namely a compal of Saint Luke's College of mon focus uniting all its mem-1972. Led by his shrewdness and panache, the college grew tenfold in numbers, and rose to of principle: "The college national and then internation- does not belong either to its al renown as a nursery of teachers and rugby players. He was to the children whom the stualso a prominent figure in dents are being prepared to the civic life of Exeter and its teach." co-opted Mayor in 1965-66.

Son of a Yorkshire doctor, Smeall went from Highgate School to Queens'. Cambridge. where a First in English still left him time to appear as wing three-quarter for the university. After "finishing" at the Sorbonne, he went into schoolteaching, and in 1939, at the age of 32, was appointed headmaster of Chesterfield Grammar School. By 1945, however, he was looking for a new challenge.

Saint Luke's was the diocesan teacher training college in Exeter. Though small, it did not lack distinction. But in 1942 it had heen bombed into total closure, and in 1945 many of its huildings were still rubble.

For rebuilding and recreating the college, Smeall adopted a time-honoured English ploy, seeking academic repute through manly sports, especially rugby. His scouts went round the schools to recruit good players. He himself refereed and coached. Success



Smealt: showmanship

bred success, until in 1953-54 the first XV scored a record 1,000 points in a season. Altogether in his time the college produced 36 rugby internationals.

In other ways too it was a time of growth. New staff were appointed: Smeall chose well, and then let them get on with it. The students got good jobs, and many rose to headships. The staff were invited all over not on education, which bored him, but on 18th-century Eng-

lish poetry and (surprisingly) dockyards. Saint Luke's in fact was on

Education, Exercer, from 1945 to bers. When student dissidence threatened in the late 1960s, Smeall made a rare declaration staff or to its students. It belongs But what gave Saint Luke's

pund soar ine-year h

the edge over its rivals was its style, Smeall's style. Among his staff appointments was the former MP Sir Richard Acland. whose family had given Killer & ton House to the National Trust. Smeall rented it back from the trust as a hall of residence, with Acland as its Warden. And, when the comedian Jimmy Edwards was playing in Exeler, Smeall invited him to speak to the students, had him elected to the non-existent office of Rector, and proceeded, in the exchange of compliments, to outwit the

professional For, as befitted the author of English Satire, Parody and Burlesque (1952), he was a master of all forms of wit and humour. Alas, only I few of his mots are printable. (In notes on the staffleft for his successor, he praised one colleague for his "impeccable taste in enemies".) Speaking on an official occasion as Mayor, he likened the new extension of a high-street bank to "an ancient Egyptian urinal". Reacting in 1968 to government pressure to admit women, be reported to his governors in revealing words: "I hope we shall be saved from sleazy touchline banshees, wrapped up in scarves and apparently ignorant of make-up." But when they came be welcomed them, for he was kind beneath the satire, just as he was shy behind the showmanship.

He also bowed to the in-evitable. When "his" college: was incorporated into Exeter University in 1978, he was consoled for the loss of its independence by the growing distinction of its new owners, and delighted by the award of an honorary degree in 1988. To a letter of congratulation then he replied typically: "I welcome any recognition that I am still alive.

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The markets are

James Leathley Smeall, teacheltrainer: born Middlesbrough, Cleveland 16 June 1907; assistant masthe world to lecture and advise, ter. Merchiston 1929-30; stoff. Gallery, and he was about to Smeall himself lectured more Royal Noval College, Dartmouth than once in Russia, typically 1930-34; Housemoster, Bradfield College 1934-36; Head of the English Department, Epsom College 1936-39; Headmaster, Chesterfield Grammar School 1939-45; Principal St Luke's College, Exeter 1945-72; the crest of a wave, and knew married 1936 Rachel Harris (died it. A college of education 1984; one doughter); died Exeter, always had one strength denied Devon 24 February 1998.

David King

DAVID KING was a big ebullient man, an actor who played character parts, making his mark quickly in every role and with a dominating stage presence. He was moreover extremely versatile; one night he could be playing a haggard trump - with his dog Dougal in Z Cars, and the next a robust country squire in Trollope. In 1996 he appeared in a fine scene with Sir John Gielgud in the acclaimed film Shine.

Perhaps "Badger" in 13 memorable West End productions of Toad of Toad Hall from the mid-Sixties, was his triumph. Badgers became a fascination: his Barnsbury house was filled with pictures, books, ornaments and memorabilia, and on the hall wall was a photograph of himself making up for the part.

"Last of all the eyes / Made larger, white encircled . . . / And there, powerful, mysterious, / The complete mask, / Badger." He may have gained a taste

for performing when, as a small der Boris Ord, and began boy, he impersonated Carmen seriously, playing Othello. His the dog". A glossy black charmer, Miranda on his parents' kitchen career took off quickly. In the table. Later, as a plump, lone- early 1950s came seasons at

At Cambridge he read English under F.L. Lucas and George Rylands, and Music un-



ly schoolboy, his toy theatre Stratford-upon-Avon with Pegbecame all-absorbing.

gy Ashcroft, Michael Redgrave on television in Jackanory. and Laurence Olivier, followed by a stint at Bristol Old Vic playing Pozzo in Walting For Godot

in 1987, he and I presented Agreeable Friends, an anthology of animal writing, he spoke movingly Esyenin's "To Jim: an

Hamlet.

actor's dog" to his own dog. Brock, on stage. Dougal was his first dog, brought in to the Haymarket Theatre one day in the mid-Sixties while King was playing in The Rivals, often covering for Ralph Richardson as Sir Anthony Absolute. Dougal and King became inseparable, and he was known as "the actor with

Among King's most impressive roles were his immense - in every sense - drag act, offer devotion at a time when

Dougal played alongside his

master's pantomime dame, in A

Midsummer Night's Dream, and

Dame Clara; his virtuoso playing of the Peggy Mount role in Sailor Beware (directed as an allmale army show); Sir in The Dresser, the Headmaster in Fony Years On; Daddy Warboys in Annie: and a favourite, his namesake David King in

Christopher Fry's A Sleep of

Prisoners.

In the early 1980s, he performed in A Patriot For Me, which progressed from Chichester to London to Los Angeles, this last an experience he utterly loathed, venting his wrath in poetry and a vitriolic journal. Numerous television appearances ranged from the classics to soaps, including the consultant surgeon Mr Bailey in Emergency Ward 10.

After Dougal died, Brick was rescued from the Animal Welfare Trust. Less manageable, smellier, a large, bounding, loveable mongrel, he too was a theatre dog, family, someone to

the profession treated his master less kindly.

David King was a vulnerable. sensitive man beneath his hig. outgoing exterior. In recent years he found new directions, and turned out some strong performances in fringe theatre and in frequent broadcasting for the BBC Drama Repertory Company. One of his poems, "I Hate Greens", has become a children's anthology favourite.

When he died he was researching the life of Arthur Conan Doyle to follow his popular portrayals of Henry VIII, Handel, Gladstone and Chesterton at the National Portrait take part in a recording of Coriolarus for Riverrun Productions - a recording now dedicated to his memory.

died London 3 March 1998.

David King, octor and poet born

Rochester, Kent 23 August 1930;

Richards: rolling left hand Photograph: Jazz Index

Red Richards

"A FINE pianist with a marvellous, loose, swinging style." The clarinettist Boh Wüber was in no doubt, when he formed his own hand in 1950. that he wanted Red Richards on piano. "He was very doubtful and said that he didn't know anything about Dixieland jazz. 1 rold him that I'd reach him the tunes and that all he had to do was play his own way."

Such reticence was typical of Richards. What fame he had

was thrust upon him, yet he was one of the most continuously husy of jazz musicians, playing and leading many bands and, incongruously, touring in 1953 as accompanist to Frank Sinatra.

He began learning to play classical piano when he was 10: When I was about 16 a fellow in my block started taking me to rent partics every Saturday night. Sometimes there might be four different parties in the same building that had piano players. That was how I came to meet Fats Waller, James P. Johnson, Don

Lambert and Willie "The Lion" Smith. The parties were always go-ing on, and those guys would play for days without stopping!

It was when he joined the band of the alto sanophonist Tab Smith in January 1945 that Richards began to attract notice. Smith's band was in partnership with the guitarist Trevor Bacon. They played for 10 weeks in Chicago before setting out for California via a tour of the South. Two weeks into the tour

trip. Coincidentally the Savoy Baliroom, New York's legendary "home of happy feet", needed a small band to support the resident Savoy Sultans, and Smith's group was given the job. They stayed for five years. join Wilber and Sidney Bechel

Richards left for Boston to and then came to Europe with Mezz Mezzrow's band in 1953.

continued until his death. The dent and the rest abandoned the trumpeter Buck Clayton was in Mezzrow's band and his friendship with Richards lasted until Richards played on Clayton's last recording in 1979. Another long friendship was with the trombonist Vic Dickenson. From 1960 to 1970 the

two led a very successful sextet called the Saints and Sinners. In 1975 Dickenson joined the res-This was the beginning of a long ident band at Eddie Condon's

and with the reassembled Savoy Sultans, In 1994 he visited Europe with the trumpeter Doc Cheatham and played and recorded with the Red Richards George Kelly Sextet Richards was a sensitive ac-

in New York and Richards be-

came the intermission pianist.

From 1979 Richards toured Eu-

rooe. Asia and Australia with the

Harlem Jazz and Blues Band

companist and a soloist with a very individual style. He had an 12 Month 1998.

tory of jazz piano, and this, coupled to a rolling left hand, enabled him to take his place firmly in the tradition of Fats Waller and James P. Johnson. He died at the piano in the middle of a job.

encyclopaedie grasp of the his-

Charles Coleridge "Red" Richards bianist and bandleader, born New York 19 October 1912; died New York

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

RAINBOW: Bernarr - on 17 March, at Princess Alice Hospice, Esher, Cre-mation at Mortlake, Wednesday 25 March at 2pm. No flowers: any do-nations to cancer research.

MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-Adoptions, Harriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Hemoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independenc, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 IIDL, telephonad to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 64.50 a line (VAT extra). O'D-IFR Guarde ampour be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at 0.0 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a day-time telephone number.

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Changing of the Guard our chaid Carairy Mounted Registers the Garery's Life (non-du) Horse Caracte.

Birthdays

tiss Ursula Andress, actress, 62; Miss Glenn Close, actress, 51; Mr Pe-ter Cotes, theatrical director and oducer, 86: Professor Rouald Girdwood, former President, Royal Col-lege of Physicians of Edinburgh, 81; The Right Rev Ronald Gordon, for-mer Bishop of Lambeth, 71; Mr Bryan Hildrew, former managing di-rector, Lloyd's Register of Shipping, 78; Vice-Admiral Sir Norman King, former chairman, Bucks Health Authority, 65; Sir David Lumsden, former Principal, Royal Academy of Music, 70; Sir Peter Masefield, avi-

ation authority, 34; Mr Philip Mason, writer, 92; Lord Plant of Highfield, Master, St Catherine's College, Oxford. 53: Lt-Gen Sir Alan Reay. Chief Honorary Steward, Westin ster Abbev. 73; Mr Philip Roth, novelist, 65; Mr Bruce Willis, actor, 43; Miss Mary Wimbush, actress, 74; Mr William Winfield, Headmaster, Mill Hill School, 51.

Anniversaries

Births: Georges de la Tour, painter, 1593: Tobias George Smollett, phy rian and writer, 1721; Dr David Livingstone, explorer and missionary, 1813; Sir Richard Francis Burton, scholar and explorer, 1821; Serge Paylovich Diaghilev, founder of the Diaghilev ballet company, 1872. Deaths: Thomas Killigrew, playwright, 1683; René Robert Cav Sieur de la Salle, explorer, murdered by his own men in Texas 1687; William Henry Playfair, architect, 1857; George Richmond, painter, 1896; Edgar Rice Burroughs, novel-

ist and creator of "Tarzan", 1950. On this days the Rev John White formed the New England Company in Mass-achusetts Bay, 1628; Sydney Harbour bridge was officially opened, 1932; following an internal dispute, British parachute troops took over the Caribbean island of Anguilla, 1969; during a severe gale, the 1,260ft tele-vision mast at Emley Moor, York-shire, crashed to the ground, 1970. Today is the Feast Day of St Al-cmand, prince of Northambria, St John of Panaca, St Joseph (husband of the Virgin) and St Landoeld.

Lectures

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Mothers (iii): Mazo, Queen Mariana of Spain in Mourning", Ipm. Tate Gallery: Stuart Currie, "Pinning Down Personal Experience: Giacometti, Bacon and Dubuffet",

National Portrait Gallery: Jacob Simon, The Art of the Picture Frame (iii): the 19th century t.10pm.

Wallace Collection, London Wi:
Guy Evans, Textiles in the Wallace

Collection's Paintings", 1pm.
School of Oriental and African
Studies, London WC1: Professor
James Read, "Law in Africa: back to the future?", 5.30pm. Royal Society (Medawar Lecture), London SW1: Professor Lewis Wolpert, "Is Science Dangerous?"

Royal Institution of Great Britain.

London W1: Professor Ian Fells.

Entrey, the Environment and You".

LAW REPORT: 19 MARCH 1998

Bacon was killed in a car acci- series of European visits that

Unregistered architect could not use 'FRIBA'

Jones y Hellard; Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Gage) 6 March 1998

The use of the initials "FRIBA" in a business letter by a person who was no longer registered as an architect and was offering his services as an arbitrator constituted an offence under Lord Justice Pill said that it

The Divisional Court allowed an appeal by the prosecutor by way of case stated against the a dispute between the compadecision of Woolwich Crown Court, which had allowed Ronald Baden Hellard's appeal against his conviction at Greenwich Magistrates' Court of an offence contrary to sections 1 and 3 of the Architects

Registration Act 1938. The offence charged the respondent with carrying on business under the style or title of

under the 1938 Act, in that he had used the intials "FRIBA" in a letter and an enclosure thereto.

Elizabeth Appelby QC and Timothy Dutton (Wright Son & Pepper) for the appellant, Jonathan Marks QC (Shadbolt & Co, Reigne) for the respondent.

the Architects Registration Act was not in dispute that the respondent had received a telephone request from a Miss Sahirad to act as arbitrator in ny of which she was a director and another firm about alteration works at premises in Wanstead. He had replied by letter on notepaper which was headed "Polycon Aims Ltd -Adjudication and Arbitration" and had signed the letter with his name followed by "DipArch

FRIBA FIMgt FCIArb". architect whilst not registered spondent was no longer a "per- whether the husiness being mre. Such an interpretation

son registered" as an architect for the purposes of section 1 of the Architects Registration Act 1938, though he had been registered for many years, nor was he any longer a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (FRIBA). At all times respondent to be registered as an architect, and when she discovered that he was not, she had complained to the

Architects Registration Board The issues arising on the appeal were whether the respondent's name followed by within the words "name, style carrying on a business; whether the use of the initials FRIBA required a finding that it was a name, style or title contain- ed to practice as an architect

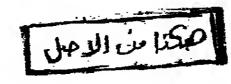
respondent was a "business" within the meaning of section 1 of the 1938 Act. The court had no difficulty

in holding that by placing his name and qualifications beneath his signature on the let-Miss Sahirad had believed the ter, the respondent was a person practising or carrying on business under that name, style or title within the meaning of section 1(1). Moreover it was bitrator which were being ification for the appointment. sought and it was those services which he was offering. In the his qualifications under the circumstances, he could not essignature to the letter came cape liability on the ground that it was the limited company and or title" under which he was not the respondent which was carrying on the business.

The words "practice" and "business" could not be limit-Al the material time the reing the word "architect"; and or in the business of architec-

practised or carried on by the would involve reading into section 1(1) words which were not there. As a matter of construction, there was no justification for doing that, and no policy reason which required the section to be limited in that way. Even if a limited construction were to be given to the section, it should in any event be sufficiently wide to cover practice or business as an arbitrator in a building dispute. Expertise in his personal services as an ar- architecture was plainly a qual-

> The acronym FRIBA did contain the word "architect"; it had no meaning except to denote several words, one of which was "architect". That construction avoided the absurdity of it being an offence to include as part of a title "Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects" and not an offence to use "FRIBA". Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



Pound soars to nine-year high on rate fears

By Diane Coyle Economics Editor

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THE POUND leapt to a nineyear high oo the foreign expolicy as the toughest since 1981. changes yesterday as the financial markets concluded that Gordoo Brown's Budget made higher interest rates a sure bet.

The stock market surged to investors gave the Budget the "thumbs up". The FTSE 100 closed at an all-time high of 5,903.6, up 68.7 points, as sentiment was boosted by a combination of positive economic data.

The reaction in the currency markets, which took sterling . two pfennigs higher to above 3.05 German marks and left exporters appalled, ignored figures which showed a dip in retail sales last month and average earnings rising by less than expected.

The Chancellor calmed the markets a little by pointing out £17bn out of the economy over two years, "I don't think anyone crously overvalued." can say it is anything other than a prudent stance," he said,

Mr Brown said the outline arithmetic for the Budget had been made available to the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) when it met in March, and opted to leave interest rates unchanged at 7.25 per cent.

It is no secret that Treasury officials would have preferred the Bank to raise rates enough to be able to signal that they had - probably reached a peak. They believe it is the possibility of borrowing that is fuelling spec-

3.05

3.00

ready tight, even though the casting vote to leave interest Budget measures were broadly neutral. In a post-Budget circular Goldman Sachs described.

Robert Barrie at CSFB said: "The neutral Budget leaves fiscal policy tight and the public finances in good shape."

However, Michael Saunders claim a chutch of new records as at Salomon Smith Barney said: "There was more tightening than expected in the 1997/98 fiscal year but there will be less in 1998/99." The squeeze was easing, he said.

> Either way, the widespread Bank of England to slow down the economy left sterling looking irresistible to dealers. Its index against a range of currencies leapt by 0.7 to 107.5, the highest since the end of 1988.

Roger Bootle, chief economist at HSBC Markets, said: "Our export business is, I think, that his two Budgets would take in danger of being devastated by a pound this high. It is ludi-

Michael Robson, presideot of the UK Steel Association and commercial director of British Steel, warned, in a radio interview: "It takes yoo years to get export business, and you can lose that business in two or three

He added: "This involves a progressive and significant loss of jobs, both inside the steel industry and, I believe, also inside UK manufacturing."

The MPC is due to meet on 9 April. It has been split since January over wbether or not to another increase in the cost of raise rates, with the published minutes showing the vote di-

The markets' verdict since labour's victory

rates unchanged.

Ironically, new figures yesterday tended to support the doves. The number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell by 13,700 in February to the lowest since July 1980. Although it was the 24th consecutive fall, the pace of decline has clearly

slowed in the past three months. In addition, the underlying growth of average earnings in the year to January was lower than expected at 4.5 per cent, the same as December. An initial estimate showing an increase in view that it is now up to the November and December was revised down.

The Office for National Statistics said the actual difference was exaggerated by rounding, and earnings growth had been stable for four months. Hawkish economists argue that pay deals, especially in the private sector, are as high as they can be if the Bank is to meet the inflatioo target.

Mr Brown warned yesterday of the oeed for moderation in pay deals. He said: "The performance of the economy this year and oext will to a large extent depend on how people who bargain on wages respond."

Additional reassurance that the ecocomy might be slowing as needed to keep inflation on track came from separate figures showing a 1.2 per cent fall in the volume of retail sales last month.

But this followed a surge in January, thanks to price discounting in the new year sales. The underlying trend has changed little, with sales up 5.5 ulation in the currency markets. vided four-four in February. per cent in the latest three bill of £20m in the year to April 1999, Many City economists agreed Eddie George, the Governor of months compared with a year rising to £25m the year after.



High stakes: The casino industry is reeling from the news that it faces an extra tax bill of 620m. London gaming clubs will be particularly affected

Casino groups' shares tumble over tax hike

By Andrew Yates

SHARES in casino groups tumbled yesterday as the market digested the shock decision by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, to increase gaming duty in the Budget.

Shares in London Clubs fell 35p to 232.5p and Capital Corporation slumped 15p to 126p. Both companies will be particularly badly affected by the tax hike due to their strong presence in the London casino market which will bear the brunt of the Budget changes.

The two casmo operators blasted the

The casino industry faces an extra tax

Chancellor's decision and pleaded with the Government to reassess the situa-

A statement released by Capital Corporation yesterday said: "The company deeply regrets this punitive tax measure. Within a highly regulated industry the opportunities to pass oo such a substantial increase in taxes are extremely limited, and the proposed change is likely to undermine Loodoo's pre-eminent position in the casino market."

London Clubs said the move would blow a £12m a year hole in its profits. Allan Goodenough, the chief executive

of Londoo Clubs, said: "I do not believe that it was the Chancellor's intention to therefore be pressing as strongly as possible to persuade the Government that this is a mistake and should be reversed.

The Government announced on Tuesday that the top rate of gaming duty payable on casinos' gross gaming yield, which is the amount left over after gamblers' winnings, is to rise to 40 per cent from 33.5 per cent from 1 April. The move will hit the larger casino operators hardest which tend to be sited in the capital. Last year more than 80 per cent of income iax, this should so increase the finos out of the total of 116 in the UK.

Shares in other casino groups dipped yesterday. Stakis, which owns a oumber of casinos as well as hotels, gave up 2.5p to 118p and Ladbroke slipped 1.75p to

The industry, in conjunction with the British Casino Association, oow intends to lobby the Government furiously over the next few weeks in an attempt to overturn the cootroversial decision.

The Customs and Excise departmeot stands to collect more than £100m a year from gaming duty after the tax hike. It is a severe blow to an industry which is worth more than £2.3bn a year.

NI reforms 'should mean lower minimum wage'

By Andrew Verity

create a 'Loodon Clubs tax' and we shall THE HEAD of the Government's tax and benefit review is urging the Government to bring in a low minimum wage, claiming it is justified by radical reforms of National Insurance adopted in Tuesday's

In a little-noticed paragraph in his report on modernising the tax and benefit system published this week, Martin Taylor said: "I believe [the reforms] considerably increase the attractions of offering and taking low-paid work.

"Combined with a low starting rate of

Employer	S NI CONT	nomions
Wage (£ per week)	April 1998	April 1999
£100	£3	£2.32
£156	€7.50	£8.42
£208	534	£14.52
€350	235	£32.82
£458	P45	245.02
£508	280	268.32
£1000	2100	£112.12
Rold departer that	amakanar'a Mi na	stributions on

lower level than would otherwise he the case. I urge the Low Pay Commission to take this reform into account in their deliberations,"

The report drew a lukewarm response from employee benefit experts who pointed out that in many cases the reforms would lead to higher national insurance contributions (NICs) for low-payers. Under Mr Taylor's reforms, an employer paying £150 a week - a possibility under a national minimum wage - would contribute £8.42. That compares with £7.50 under the current system.

John Whiting, an employee benefits expert at Price Waterhouse, the accountangaming duty was paid by 21 London casi- nancial attractiveness of low-paid jobs as cy firm, said: "There are a lot of employers who, once they sil down and work out the numbers, are going to find they are paying more. Arguably, this is a step in the

According to the Institute of Fiscal Studies, higher employer NICs will sometimes be offset by the abolition of the "entry fee" for employee's NICs. The entry fee requires employees to pay contributions worth 2 per cent of all their wages wheo they cam just over £64.

The reforms will boost employer contributions for high earners by approximately 2 per coot - a tax rise which is expected to be passed on to employees.

IFS verdict on NICs, page 27

£462,000 pay-off for Hanson's son angers shareholders

By Andrew Yates

ROBERT HANSON, already ooe of the most eligible bachelors in Britain, has received a reported. It included 18 months' controversial £462,000 pay-off from the firm founded by his as well as his basic salary of father Lord Hanson. Including £220,000 a year. boouses, salary and the compensation pay out, Robert re- more than £900,000 from the ceived a total of £825,000.

The pay-out has incurred the wrath of shareholders. Several large institutions are unhappy that he is being compensated for the 18 months left oo his contract, even though be left his position of corporate development director of his own accord to pursue interests at the Hanson family's private transport

The package given to Robert break-up of the £10bo Hansoo

a string of beautiful women on his arm over the last few years, was much higher than originally worth of beoefits and honuses

Lord Hansoo also made group in the 15 months to December, including a £317,000 profit oo the sale of share options. The figures were disclosed in the company's annual

Robert followed in his father's footsteps by announcing his resignation from Hanson last year, ending the family's association with the group. Their exit came in the wake of the

Hanson, who has been seen with empire. The Hanson group has ing performed by Andrew Doubeen turned from a sprawling conglomerate to a pure huilding materials group.

> Christopher Collins, who is married to the niece of Lord Hanson, Mr Collins endorsed to the payments to Robert Hauson at the time of his departure.

The company claims that Robert Hansoo was entitled to the pay-off as his role was materially changed after the company was demerged from the Energy Group. Hanson said yesterday the group no longer oceded a corporate development director as it was now concentrating on finding smaller, bolt-on acquisitions.

Robert Hanson has not been replaced and his job is oow begal, the group's chief executive. The money will help Robert Hanson fund his bectic social life. Never far from the gossip columns, Robert Hansoo has

Hansoo is now chaired by been romantically linked with Sophie Anderton, who is famous for modelling lingerie and "It-girls" such as Tara Palmer-Tomkinsoo and Normandy Keith.

Hanson's annual report published yesterday also revealed that Brian Hellings, a former finance director, received compensation of £430,000 last year. Mr Hellings was appointed to help out the finance departmeot after stepping down as a director of the group. However his role was also downgraded af-

Wickes directors double their money

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

Two directors of Wickes, the recovering DIY retailer, received bonuses of almost £500,000 between them last year, almost dou-

bling their salary in both cases. Bill Grimsey, who was promoted to chief executive in 1996 after the company discovered a back hole in its accounts, received a boous of £248,000. This took his total remuneratioo last year to

£511,000. Bill Hoskins, finance

director, received a £200,000

boous, taking his total pay to The company said the bonuses were performance-related, although oo method of calculation

was detailed in the accounts. A spokesman for Wickes said the bourses were justified given

the recovery of the company which was close to collapse after the £50m black hole was discovered and Henry Sweetbaum

departed as chief executive.

The salary packages at Wickes are heavily performance-related and the directors' success in achieving profits that few thought possible at the beginning of 1997 are reflected in the bonuses for that year. If they don't succeed they get no bonus. Over the last year or so shareholders have seen the shares rise in value from around 130p to approaching 300p." They closed up 3p yesterday at 297.5p.

The accounts, published yesterday, also showed Mr Grimsey was granted almost 400,000 share options at 175.5p. These are not exercisable for two years but are already worth

LDV and Daewoo to create 2,000 jobs

By Michael Harrison

THE GOVERNMENT will today announce financial support for a £160m van plant to be built in Birmingham by LDV and Daewoo of Korea creating up to 2,000 jobs.

Margaret Beckett, Presideot of the Board of Trade, is expected to confirm that the Government will contribute around £23m-£28m of assistance to the joint venture, which intends to produce 80,000 vans a year by 2005.

a similar amount and take a minority shareholding in LDV. The chairman of Daewoo. Woo-chooog Kim, plans to fly in for a formal signing ceremony next week.

The investment is a feather in the cap for the UK at a time wheo other Korean conglomer-

The new plant will produce

Daewoo is expected to invest

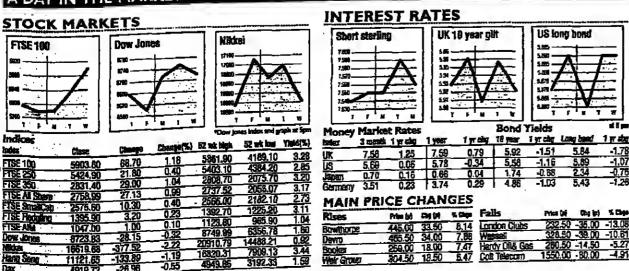
ates are cancelling investment plans io the wake of the downturn in the Asian economies.

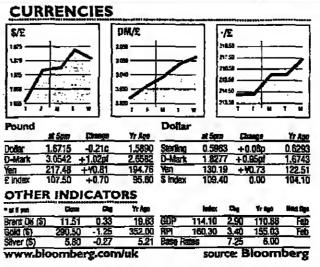
40,000 LDV-badged vans and 40,000 Daewoo-badged vans a year to replace the current LDV range of Pilot and Convoy vans. About 75 per cent of production will be exported. LDV produces 20,000 vans

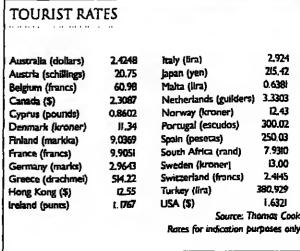
a year at present with a workforce of 1,500 and is Britain's only remaining independent van maker. It was bought out by its management after the collapse of the Dutch truck and van group DAF

Daewoo plans to build 150,000 of the same van range at a new plant in Poland. Dacwoo has invested £130m in a UK dealer network and has a technical design centre in Worthing, Sussex, employing 1,000.

A DAY IN THE MARKETS







BT signs deal

ICL to press ahead with float despite contract delay

By Michael Harrison

ICL, the information technology company owned by Fujitsu of Japan, yesterday shrugged off delays on a £1bn contract to automate the benefit payments system by confirming that it is to clients. press ahead with a stock market

Analysis estimate that the in 2000, could value ICL at between £1.5bn and £2bn. The company returned to the black of network. in 1997 after several years of heavy losses caused by its withdrawal from computer manu-

Announcing a turnaround from operating losses of £6.6m in 1996 to profits of £32.5m last year, Keith Todd, tCL's chief executive said a flotation was "very definitely on".

crease its operating margins three-fold over the next two years, indicating that it expects to be making profits of about £180m on sales of £3bn by the

Mr Todd also denied ICL had encountered problems with the State Benefit paymeots contract - the biggest IT scheme awarded under the Government's Private Finance Initiative and ICEs biggest single project.

The scheme, to automate benefit paymeots at 19,000 post offices by replacing payment books with smart cards, is running two years behind the original timetable. It was due to come nn stream fully this year. However, because ICL and its two clicots, the Benefits Agency and the Post Office, have decided more time is required to test the system, it will not be ready until

that the project was in danger of collapse or that ICL Pathway, the subsidiary which is running the project, was in danger of being removed from the contract, although be confirmed that talks had taken place with the two

"The austomer loves this proiect and the software is world class. I only have one problem flotation, scheduled to take place and that is working through the oumber of international opportunities we have to install this type

He said that both Denmark and Australia were interested while ICL would decide in the next three to four weeks whether to proceed with a major benefits automation project elsewhere

1CL has so far spent £125m in the contract and its total investment is expected to reach But he said ICL need to in- around £600m before its starts to earn significant revenues from 2000 onwards. ICL receives a payment each time the card is used. There are 19 million benefit claimants carrying out a total of some 890 million transactions each year.

The company has estimated revenues from the contract at £1bn but its franchise expires in 2005 at which time it will have to tender to renew the concession.

Mr Todd said he was very confident ICL Pathway would meet its operational targets it had agreed with the Benefits Agency but refused to comment oo whether the terms of the contract. were being renegotiated.

However, John Bennett, the managing director of ICL Pathway, said that no changes in the contract or any possible penalty payments for late delivery were being considered. "There are no changes at all. The structure of the Mr Todd rejected reports contract remains intact," he said.

Operating profit

by division, £m



Sun, sea and shares: Thomson Travel will entice investors with a package of benefits including discounts on a range of holidays

Thomson Travel set to make £1.5bn market debut

THOMSON Travel, the UK's funding the ambitions expanlargest tour operator and owner of Lunn Poly travel agent chain, yesterday confirmed plans to come to the stock market, in what would be the biggest flotation of the year so far.

City analysts believe the group will be valued at up to £1.5bn. And to entice customers and private investors to buy shares in the group it plans to offer a package of benefits including discounts on a range of

Thomson Corporation, the

clear that it would have difficulty sion of both arms of its business.

Thomson Travel plans to hit the acquisitioo trail once it comes to the market. It is eyeing up targets throughout Continental Europe where it will come head to head with Airtours, its arch-rival in the UK, which has similar ambitions. The company is also keen to expand its cruise operations.

Paul Brett, chief executive of lobbied hard for the group's independence said yesterday: "I Canadian media giant, has fi- am very excited. The logic for nally decided to hive off the this deal was inescapable. There

1997

520.5

travel group after it became would have been a competitioo for funds at Thomson."

Mr Brett and his fellow directors are likely to buy shares in the new group and will be entitled to a new long-term incentive and bonus package, All of Thomson Travel's 14,000 employees will be able to purchase shares at a preferential

Thomson also plans an agressive push to win market share in the UK by offering more family bolidays, However Thomson Travel, who has it ruled out a large increase in capacity which lead to heavy discounting and brought the industry to its knees in 1995.

ing £125m to its Canadian parent to take control of the strong pound. Thomson Corporatioo is

selling the whole travel group Fritidsresor, the troubled Scanbut the Thomson family are keen to retain their involvement and are expected to buy up to

20 per cent of Thomson Travel. Thomson Corporation is expected to use the sale proceeds to continue its conversion from a newspaper company into a publisher of specialist financial information. The decisioo to float the group has also been prompted by the result of the Mooopolies and Mergers Commission investigation into the industry which left travel groups

virtually unscathed. Thomsoo Travel is also pay-

dinavian holiday group Nordicregion holiday company.

Thomson Travel is a market leader in the UK travel industry. Its tour operating arm served 3.7 million customers last year, accounting for more than a fifth of the £7bn package holiday market. As well as owning almost 800 Lumn Poly shops the group owns Britannia Airways, the UK's largest charter airline and Holiday Cottages, the biggest holiday cottage supplier.

Thomson announced a rise in pre-tax profits to £112.4m from £81.9m, thanks to the buoyant holiday industry and

Satellite group plans £ibn move to market

By Peter Thal Larsen

INMARSAT, the international satellite group in which British Telecom holds a significant stake, is preparing a £1bo flotation within the oext two years after its owners cleared a restructuring which will turn the # group into conventional com-

pany.

More than 81 countries have a stake in Inmarsat, mostly through their national telecom companies. The group, which was originally set up to provide distressed sailors with a way of signalling for help, has nine satellites stationed in space allowing it to provide one of the only truly global networks for mobile communications.

However, Immarsat's co-operative structure means it is illequipped to raise the new investment it needs to upgrade its network. The group needs to raise \$2.5bn (£1.5bn) to buy and launch five new satellites which will support Horizon, a new superfast data communications service which will allow computer users to access the internet from anywhere in the world. and will be on the market from

Major shareholders such as BT, which owns 8 per cent of the company, had threatened to refuse further investment if the company did not change its structure.

If the change is approved by Inmarsat's Assembly oext mooth, it will become a conventional company. For the first year, shareholders will be allowed to buy shares from each other. Inmarsat is also expected to invite equipment suppliers to take equity stakes. The company has the power to issue up to \$500m in oew

Subsequeotly, oew investors will be allowed in before the company is floated - probably in New York and London. The flotatioo could bring a windfall worth several hundreds of millions of pounds for BT

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

Kingfisher beats expectations

IT IS one of the ironies of the City that attendances at companies' results meetings are ofteo in ioverse proportion to the quality of financial performance. Two or three years ago, when Kingfisher was struggling, the Woolworths and B&O retailer had to hold its meetings in a large conference hall to accommodate all the ambulance chasers. Now a small room is sufficient

and only half a dozen turn up.

None of this will bother Sir Geoff Mulcahy. Kingfisher's lugubrious chief executive who has worked wonders with this group, having almost lost his grip on it back in 1995. It is firing on all cylinders and the share price has reached new highs. Having dipped to a low of 3890 in early 1995, the shares have been reaching skyward ever since and a 25 per cent surge this year alone has taken them to a record high of t,196p, up 59p vesterday.

The reason is that with each set of results and quarterly sales updates, analysts have to keep upgrading forecasts. Yesterday's full-year figures were a case in point, exceeding all expectations with a 34 per cent rise to £520.5m.

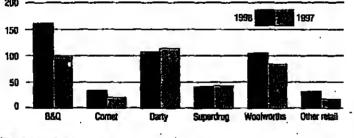
Like-for-like sales across the group were 8.3 per cent ahead of last year with B&O leading the way with a thumping 12.6 per cent gain. Of course, if a DIY retailer was not raking in it last year, with rising house prices and negative equity disappearing, theo they never will, But B&Q has increased its market share from 17 to 19 per cent in a year and its Warehouse format of larger stores are performing strongly. With 30 outlets now, it plans a further seven this year and sees scope for a total of 75.

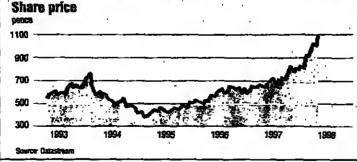
Woolworths is working well with the introduction of electronic point of sales helping margins, which rose from Smiths profits 5.5 per cent to 6.3 per cent. Superdrug profits dipped due to investment in the from free cash portfolio and Darty is starting to see an improvement in the tough French electricals market.

The key question with Kingfisher now is can Kingfisher continue its terrific run? Sir Geoff Mulcahy made a point of warning that the five hikes in interest rates could be affecting consumer confidence. Sales at Comet are starting to slow down and, as the company admits, it was electrical retailers that were lead indicators of the last recession.

On increased forecasts of £572m, the shares trade oo a forward rating of 19. This is unly in line with the retail produced a solid 11 per cent increase three-pronged growth strategy before 2000. The shares are still good value.

Kingfisher: At a glance Market value: £7.4tm, share price 1096p (+59p) Five-year record 1996 Turnover (£bn) Pre-tax profits (£m) 309.3 244.2 311.7 388.7 Earnings per share (p) 37.65 41.4 Dividends per share (p) 15.2 16.2 19.0





sector and analysts are confident about prospects. But with a tougher year on the high street ahead, this may look like the top in six months time. It could be time to lock in profits.

SIR ROGER HURN's track record at Smiths Industries is second to none. Under his stewardship, the engineering group has prospered in industries that are far from sexy: aerospace, medical systems and industrial products. As Sir Roger turns his attention to the chairmanship of GEC, however, the question is whether Smiths can keep it going.

Interim results for the six mooths to 31 January, released yesterday. showed no obvious weak points. Despite a squeeze from sterling, Smiths is how long Smiths can carry on its Place will probably triple its size by

in pre-tax profits to £89.3m. That rise includes a contribution from Graseby. the medical pumps busioess that Smiths bought last year for £136m. But the aerospace and industrial divisions also produced good organic growth. Only the medical side, which suffered from the strong pound, lagged behind with a 3 per cent underlying rise.

Can this last? Well, maybe. The key to Smiths' success is its huge free cash flow, which it can use to finance investment and acquisitions. Even after paying for interest, tax, dividends and capital spending, Smiths generated almost £34m of cash in the half year.

A few clouds have appeared on the long-term horizon, however. The first is the civil aerospace cycle, which is likely to head down again in a few years' time. Smiths says demand for defence acrospace will more than make up the shortfall, but analysts wonder what will happen to margins. Another question

the divisions become too cumbersome and suitable acquisitions too hard to find. Smiths' role in the restructuring of the European defence industry is another imponderable.

On full-year profit forecasts of £220m, the shares, up 2.5p to 874p, trade oo a forward p/e ratio of 18, suggesting the market thinks Keith Butler-Wheelhouse, Sir Roger's successor, will produce more of the same. He deserves the benefit of the doubt, but only just. For now, high ecough.

Holmes Place builds up gyms

THE GYM is oo longer just the preserve of the hulking weight lifter or the injured sports star. Health clubs are becoming increasingly popular with the average man or woman in the street. Even the odd financial journalist has occasionally been spotted on an

exercise bike The result has been an explosion in the health and fitness market with new clubs springing up everywhere. Holmes Place is one of the new stock market stars that has cashed in on this rapid growth. There is a danger is that the industry will become oversupplied. But with the market forecast to carry on growing by at least 10 per cent a year there should be plenty of room for op-erators like Holmes Place to expand.

The group plans to accelerate its opening programme, setting up about 10 new clubs a year, which should be the main driver of its growth. Oo top of that it has signed a deal with Regal Hotels to add up to 25 gyms over the next few years throughout its chain and is looking to grow in Europe.

Holmes Place share price has powered ahead since it floated last November at 128p. Yesterday it comped another 11p to 287p as it announced that profits more than doubled to £5.4m last year, Analysis forecast current-year profits rising to £6.8m. Even then, the shares trade on a prospective p/e of more than 30 times. However, this is not just a short-term profits story. Earnings growth will be slowed by rapid openings and a new, half a million pound advertising

The real potential lies over the medium term as club membership rises and its heavy investment programme begins to pay off. Oo its current rate of expansion Holmes

Dutch bank gives boost to City job prospects

By Lea Paterson

A DUTCH investment bank gave a much-needed boost to employment prospects in the City of London yesterday by hiring 12 equity staff - including eight from UBS - and saying it would take on up to an extra 75 by the end of the year.

Rabobank said the eight ex-UBS employees included Paul Deslandes, the former head of European equity trading at UBS, and Paul Simpson, an employee in UBS's equity arbitrage division. Mr Deslandes is to be global head of equity trading at Rabobank and Mr Simpson is to be head of equity arbitrage. Both will report to Marcus Grubb, global bead of equities at the bank.

The bank said it was trying to build a "research-driven" equities business. The Dutch bank is the latest investment bank to try and capitalise on recent stake-ups in the City, including the merger of UBS and SBC, the sale of the equities divisions of both Nat West and Barclays, and, most recently, the proposed restructure at Chase Manhattan, the US investment bank.

Commerzbank, a leading German bank, and Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette, a US bank, have both recently said they intended to recruit hundreds of equity staff in the City.

Earlier this week, both NatWest Markets and Panmure Gordon said they had snapped up some top UBS equity specialists. Nat West Markets - whose equity team will soon transfer to Bankers Trust - has hired nine former UBS staff. Panmure Gordon has hired a further 12. The other UBS staff bired by

Rabobank are Michael Webb and Simon Mills - who will both be directors of pan-European trading-together with John Dow, Simon Spence, Mark Ayres and Darryl Willoughby. Rabobank has also hired Paul

Hammond, who was a head of UK equities at Morgan Stanley, Max Wellby and Chris Lee from BZW, the former investment banking arm of Barclays, and Charles Giessen of Salomon Smith Barney.

Bridge pays \$510m for **Dow Jones Markets**

DOW Jones & Co has agreed to sell its unprofitable financial informatioo unit, Dow Jooes Markets -- formerly known as Telerate - to Bridge Information Systems for \$510m (£310m) in cash and stock. Under the agreement, Bridge will pay \$360m in cash and \$150m in five-year, convertible preferred stock. With the sale, Dow Jones sheds a money-losing unit that led it to take a \$922.5m charge in the fourth quarter to write down the value of its initial \$1.6bn purchase of Telerate.

Nikon invests £3m in UK

NIKON, the Japanese corporation, is to invest £3m in a ocw laboratory in Milton Keynes - its first venture in the UK. The onhthalmic lens facility is expected to generate 30 jobs initially and will serve European demand for its lenses. Nikoo said the move would complete its global plans for production facilities in Japan, North America and Europe.

Kwik Save deal to go ahead

THE PLANNED £1.3bn merger of supermarket groups Somerfield and Kwik Save was given the go-ahead by the Department of Trade and Industry yesterday. Margaret Beckett, the Trade and Industry Secretary, said she had decided not to refor the merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The merged group would have around 7 per cent of the UK market, compared with market leader Tesco's near 17 per cent.

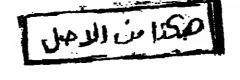
EU approval for HIV drug

GLAXO Wellcome, the drugs giant, has been given approval by the European Commission to market Combivir in all 15 countries in the European Union. Combivir is used for the management of HIV infection. It combined two anti-retroviral drugs in a single tablet, reducing the number of tablets taken, Glaxo said.

Profits rise at P&O venture

P&O Nedlloyd, the container shipper, yesterday said prospects for 1998 and 1999 were good hut warned the consequences of the Asian crisis remained uncertain. The year-old Anglo-Dutch joint venture said 1997 profits before interest, merger costs and tax were \$73m (£44.2m) compared with pro forma 1996 pre-tax profits of \$19m.

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
American Port (F)	37.47m (28.11m)	6.31m (7.18m)	8.5p (11.5p)	2.16p
Bill Benerous (F)	127.5m (115,2m)	5.7m (6.36m)	16.8p (20.9p)	7.8p (7.8p)
Gestron (F)	80.82m (80.44m)	3.39m (5.85m)	8.6p (24.4p)	7.3p (7.0p)
Bowthorpe (F)	540.6m (524.9m)	85.48m (72.80m)	26.23p (20.9p)	11 20 40 94
of Carriery (F)	74.00nz (77.71m)	9.11m (8.95m)	20.9p (20.2p)	8.1p (8.5p)
Churchill China (F)	53.85m (54.10m)	6.12m (6.16m)	40.1p (40.3p)	14.3p (13.0p)
Denno (/7	284.5m (307.2m)	58.0rg (44.4m)	23.6p (18.5p)	9.5p (8.5p)
Gearlauma Group (I)	30.11m (20.31m)	1,33m (1,63m)	5.8p (9.8p)	2.6p (2.4p)
Hadleys (F)	507.4m (592.1m)	21.52m (33.33m)	21.3p (42.3p)	16.5p (15.0p)
Restock (F)	320.9m (267.3m)	23.46m (8.26m)	4.09p (1.85p)	
Kingdalar (F)	6.40bn (5.81ba)	520.5m (388.7m)	57.4p (41.4p)	2.20p (2.0p)
Jobs Laleg (F)	1.480n (1.22bn)	32.2m (24,5m)	25.7p (17.7p)	23.0p (19.0p) 10.5p (9.5p)
Rea Brothers (F)	(-)	3.53m (1.81m)	4.920 (2.50)	
Rosabys (F) Scholl (F)	184.7m (13.5m)	13.00m (7.05m)	24.1p (17.7p)	1.25p (1.0p) 11.8p (7.78p)
Street (P)	179.1m (112.8m)	23.3m (20.6m)	18.2n (18.0p)	
Smith's industries (I)	30.0m (27.88m)	3.23m (2.59m)	4.14p (3.150)	5.30 (4.70)
Television Corp (F)	553.1m (495.3m)	89.3m (84.2m)	19.7p (17.6p)	1.85g (1.79p) 6.75p (6.15p)
FW Thorpe	37.23m (25.09m)	4.11m (3.07m)		3.7p (3.0p)
Wilson Councy (P)	13.17m (11.29m)	1.59m (1.212m)	8.47p (6.21p)	
	312.0m (300.3m)	38.0m (26.4m)		1.50p (1.37p)
LECTO Wine (F)	72.5m (68.0m)	1.11m (2.8m)	2 35n (5 30m)	4.0p (3.44p)





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OUTLOOK ON THE CHANCELLOR'S BUDGET STRATEGY. THE IDEA OF A **GOVERNMENT STAKE** IN RAILTRACK, AND THE PAY-OFF TO ROBERT HANSON

Brown is not such a Tory Chancellor after all

the Institute for Fiscal Studies, the measures introduced in the two Budgets since the election amount to the biggest redistribution from rich to poor for decades.

You'd be forgiven for not having noticed. The pain has been so well and cleverly spread that it has barely been fell. Furthermore, the numbers are not large. The bottom half of earners have gained between a half and three per cent of their income, while the top half have lost just 0.3 per cent of theirs. The figures also ignore the fact that the income of high earners is growing at a much faster rate than that of the low paid, so that the gap between rich and poor continues to widen notwithstanding anything the Government has done to correct it.

Even so, some redistribution has been achieved. It is what Labour Governments are supposed to be for, and the reality is that Mr Brown has already gone some of the distance, despite impressions to the contrary. Mr Brown might appear to be the best Tory Chancellor since the war, but underneath

it all, he's Labour through and through. Part of the deverness of Mr Brown's approach is that there's so little in it the better off can fundamentally disagree with. Nobody can object too much to the costs of a package of measures to help the poor if the intention is to make work pay. What's more, when this is balanced with progressive measures to help business and enterprise, to complain looks more churlish still. Certainly, there has been some grumbling.

SO YOU thought Gordon Brown was a most loudly with the Government's attack Tory, did you? Think again. According to on pension savings through the abolition of tax credits on dividends, but nearly everything the Chancellor has done has so far paid off, politically and economically.

At the same time, it has been impossible to fault the Chancellor on macro-econamic policy. The borrowing requirement has come down faster than expected, and spending control has been tighter than anybody imagined possible. Those who carp that this week's Budget was not tough enough are simply posturing. They would be whingeing about the rising tax burden had it been any tighter.

If there is a cloud on the borizon, it is the strength of the pound. The irony here is that Mr Brown handed the reins over to the Bank of England to take the politics out of interest rate decisions and make sure that if there were tough choices, they would be taken. But who can doubt on his present showing that the Chancellor would have raised rates further and faster if it had been left to him rather than the timorous doves on the Monetary Policy Committee?

Lower interest rates might take the beat out of the pound but given how much of the present monetary tightening in the economy is itself down to the strength of sterling, that could prove very much a double edged sword. The effect would be doubly inflationary. Alternatively, an immediate sharp increase in rates along with a statement, like the one the MPC issued in August, saying there was no more

Strangely, then, the one big question verting the huge public subsidies the netmark hanging over Mr Brown's first innings is not one directly of his own making. There's already been a considerable fiscal tightening under Mr Brown; monetary policy has to be allowed to do the rest in the fight against inflation. With the public finances in good shape, the stock market at another record high and a start made on necessary microeconomic reforms, the Chancellor can afford to ignore the few post-Budget grumbles there are.

Committee heads off the rails

WHILE Gordon Brown has proved he can wear the hair shirt of austerity as well as any Tory Chancellor, the Conservatives are demonstrating that they too are not averse to stealing the clothes that were once worn only on the left of the People's Party.

One of the (unanimous) recommendadons yesterday from the Commons Transport Select Committee, which includes a bevy of Conservative members, is that the Government should consider taking an equity stake in Railtrack, the owner of the nation's privatised railroads, signalling and stations.

Finished rubbing the disbelief from your eyes? Quite right, the last politician to air this harebrained idea was Clare Short when she was shadow Transport Secretary. Clare's idea was that once in power Labour would re-assert some form inclination to tighten, might send sterling lower, such is the psychology of markets. of state influence over the railways by con-

work receives into equity. Sort of like a disgrised rights issue with the Government emerging as an important minority

It was one of the reasons that the last government ended up getting such a lousy price for Railtrack and why the shares have since almost tripled in value. Investors panicked at the prospect of a Labour victory and drove the flotation price down. What on earth are they to make now of a similar proposition receiving all-party support? Ms Short never really explained how the Government or the taxpayer would benefit from taking an equity stake in Railtrack and nor does the Select Committee.

But the idea that investment decisions might in some way be second guessed by politicians or that the dead hand of Whitehall should be allowed to dictate the development of the railways should fill investors with dread. The Select Committee ought to know better and its madeap idea should to be stopped in its tracks before it gathers any momentum.

Leaving bad blood with investors

NICE to see that good corporate governance lives on at Hanson PLC, the huilding materials group demerged a few years back from the conglomerate of the

This was the bit of Hanson which fa-

ther James and son Robert decided to make their home after the conglomerate split into four. Both of them left at Christmas. Lord Hanson simply retired while his son Robert resigned "voluntarily" so as to run his father's privately owned transport business in the North East.

There's nothing wrong as such with successful industrialists wanting their sons to follow in their footsteps, though as a point of principle institutional investors invariable object to the creation of business dynasties and it was always a bit of a mystery as to what the young Robert really did round there.

But what could justify a payoff of nearly £500,000? After all, he was supposed to have gone "voluntarily" and he would never have been there at all hut for his father. The same goes for the present Hanson chairman, Christopher Collins, who himself managed to hitch his wagon to the Hanson caravan some years back by marrying the good Lord's niece.

When asked last November about Robert's impending departure, Mr Collins said the young lad could expect some compensation since he had once been corporate development director of a £10bn conglomerate but that role had been reduced by the demerger to the same job in "a focused building materials company". Poor mite. Nobody thought he meant half a mil, though. We can only assume that to justify such a sum he must have made some great awe inspiring contribution to corporate development. But then again, perhaps it was just leaving.

BT signs deal with China Telecom

By Michael Harrison

BRITISH TELECOM has taken ket, potentially one of the biggest operator China Telecom.

The agreement, signed on BT chairman, and Zhang Ligni, the director general of China Telecom, provides for the two companies to swap technology and examine business oppor-

competition with Cable & Wire- in the UK, writes Peter Thal Larsen. less, its UK rival, which hopes to use its presence in Hong Kong

com and tap into the expansion of the Chinese telecoms market.

Mr Ligni said, "China Teleits first step into the Chinese mar- com is very keen to develop strong links with BT. A modern in the world, by signing a mem- and strong telecommunications orandum of understanding infrastructure is an essential

economic development and it is important we widely co-operate with leading carriers such as BT" Initially, the agreement will

be limited to training and exchange of technologies but BT

It opened an office in Peking just over a year ago and has been looking at ways to enter the Chinese telecoms market, which is growing at a rate of 10 million new lines a year. This is the equivexecutives believe it could be the alent of BT's domestic octwork (MoU) with the state-owned element to China's future start of a much bigger alliance, growing by half every 12 months.

Tuesday by Sir Isin Vallance, the Microsoft picks UK partner for trial of WebTV

crosoft subsidiary which specialises in providing internet over the television, chose BT's of how British consumers will take to the system. The MoU brings BT into internet business to support a trial of WebTV

to forge links with China Tele- Technology and Sony, and a connection to BT In- nect to the internet.

MICROSOFT and British Telecom yesterday ternet, allowing them access to the internet from linked up for the first time when WebTV, the Mi-their televisions. WebTV is hoping the trial, which will last for about five months, will give it an idea

WebTV has proved popular in the US, where 300,000 viewers are connected to the service. Be-Several hundred BT customers will be formished cause the set-top boxes only cost a few hundred with a set-top hox, manufactured by Pace Micro dollars, the system is a relatively cheap way to con-

Last June C&W sold a 5.5 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom to China Telecom for £726m, reducing its majority shareholding to 54.5 per ceot. At the time C&W said the deal would provide opportunities for it to co-operate with China Telecom in the Chinese market. It also held out the possibility of a further reduction in its shareholding in Hongkong Telecom to bring the C&W and China Telecom stakes into line.

Reacting to the agreement between China Telecom and BT, a C&W spokesman said: "We are pleased with our relationships in China and we are confident that C&W and Hong- a rival US supplier, oo cockpit craft manufacturers. kong Telecom will have big roles | systems for the Airbus. Smiths to play in this huge market." | already supplies a similar flight | cially important to Sextant in the

Smiths Industries to supply cockpit electronics to Airbus

By Peter Thal Larsen

SMITHS Industries, the engineering group, has made a major breakthrough by agreeing a deal to supply its flight management systems to Airbus, the European planemaker. The company yesterday an-

opunced that Sextant Avionique, the state-owned French electronics group which is a major supplier to Airbus, will include Smiths' technology in its electronics for the cockpit. The deal allows Sextant to go Airbus had resisted the com-

head to head with Honeywell,

management to several models US market, where Boeing of Boeing. Smiths would not disclose

agreement, which is unlikely to start contributing to its profits until deliveries start until 2002. But Sir Roger Hurn, Smiths' chairman, said the deal was "qualitative rather than quantitative" for the company because it gives Smiths a good chance to expand the amount of work it does for Airbus. Sir Roger said oeither Boeing nor ment.

Smiths' system will be espe- by 11 per cent to £89.3m.

pany supplying parts to both air-

dominates but where Airbus is making rapid strides. By being the figancial details of the able to offer the same system which pilots are already used to, Sextant stands a good chance of winning in the hattle with Honcywell.

Buyers of Airbus aircraft can curreotly choose either supplier to fit out the cockpits. but until recently Sextant has been hampered by its inability to offer a full range of equip-

The news came as Smiths ancounced that profits for the six months to 31 January increased

Investment column, page 24

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Clare Spottiswoode hails opening of domestic gas markets



transfer to a new gas supplier as the market fully opens to competition, Clare Spottiswoode (above), the gas regulator, said yesterday.

Ms Spottiswoode, director general of Ofgas, said competition in gas supply, which enables domestic consumers to choose which company supplies their gas, is

"So far around 7.3 million people ... can choose their gas supplier and already around 1.3 million - almost one in five - are choosing to switch.

"By comparison, only one in 10 telephone subscribers have switched away from British Telecom," she added. Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

Kingfisher expands Music Video Club in challenge to WH Smith

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

KINGFISHER, the B&O and Woolworths retailer, is expanding its Music Video Club (MVC) chain in a move that could see it move into territory traditionally occupied by WH Smith.

MVC has 47 shops specialising in selling entertainment products to older, "lapsed" music buyers who find superstores such as HMV and Virgin too loud and intimidating. A further 20 branches will open this year. Kingsher is also adding a ange of 7,000 books to its

Hampshire, in a trial that could in profits at B&Q, the DIY busialso have implications for WH ness and good performances trials in home shopping. Wool-Smith if extended to the whole from Woolworths and Comet. portfolio.

MVC has signed up 2.5 million members to its club card which bestows discounts on purchases. The database will be used for marketing purposes. Kingfisher said it had not deliberately targeted Smiths but admitted that it could benefit from Smiths' decision that mu-

sic was no longer a core activity. The announcements came as Kingfisher unveiled record results for last year. Profits soared by 34 per cent to £520.5m,

Kingfisher shares soared 59p to a new high of 1,037p. The company is oow proposing a two-for-one share split to improve liquidity.

Sir Geoff Mulcahy, chief executive, said the group was well placed to build on its good past performance. However, he did warn of a potential consumer slowdown: There are signs that the five bikes in interest rates could be affecting consumer

Sir Geoff announced further worths tested a Christmas catalogue in some stores last year and is planning another mail out in spring. A "back to school" catalogue will be launched in the summer. At B&Q, it has set up a centre call centre for kitchen sales. Sir Geoff said Asia was a possible area of future expansioo. Its two branches of B&Q m Taiwan are trading well.

In Europe, the group could afford an acquisition of up to £1bn, he said, but added that confidence." Sales growth at oothing was on the ageoda at Comet has slowed a little in re-



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COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Budget boosts Footsie past 5,900 barrier

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

A surprise slowdown in 118p. average earnings and the bined to alleviate higher interest rate fears, leaving the regime. Enterprise Oil fell stock market free to feast on 14.5p to 521p and Lasmo pro-market" Budget.

during London hours were other influences

Footsie ended the session at its best level, up 68.7 to a 5.903.6 peak. At the start of the year it was 5,135.5. The mid and SmallCap indices also reached new highs.

Budget losers. London Clubs chain will end soon with a US International spun 35p lower to 232.5p and Capital Corpobroke, the subject of extensive also a beneficiary of the na-visit today.

EQUITIES enjoyed a Budget speculation over a possible tional insurance changes boom with Footsic crossing the hotel deal on Budget day, 5,900 points barrier for the first shaded 1.75p to 336p and Stakis surrendered 2.5p to

New York's overnight troleum shrugged off an early

group, was among those closing at a high - up 7.5p to 994p. There was talk of more disposals with some suggesting announcements were imminent. Travelodge, the 160 chain of budget hotels, was one But it was not joy for every- division said to be likely to go one. Tougher gaming tax en- and there was growing specusured the chips were down for lation the group's effective added 10.5p to 700p after a casinos. They were among the control of the Savoy Hotel

> chain moving in. Kingfisher, on results,

which helped the likes of higher to 589.5p as Salomon Rank, up 18.25p at 378p, and Asda, 6p to 200.75p.

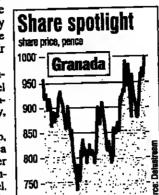
Wassall, one of the few re-Oils were also hit as the maining conglomerates, tumexpected retail sales fall com- Government threatened to bled 39p to 328.5p after was topped by a Goldman reshape the North Sea tax disclosing its intention to become a leveraged buyout group. It said its major instiwhat has been described as a 4.75p to 267p. Shell gave up tutions supported such a move 275.5p after Crédit Lyonnais 6p to 416.5p but British Pe- but there was widespread unrest in the market. Chief exstrength and its steady display fall to end 9p higher at 822.5p. ecutive Chris Miller said the Granada, the leisure change was an innovative way for conglomerates to tackle the underperformance of their

> Transport companies continued to advance on the fuel rebates for bus operators. National Express, figures today, improved 22p to 824.5p.

Unigate, the dairy group, positive investment dinner bosted by Henderson Crosthwaite at London's Ritz Hotel. Hazlewood Foods hardened 2p ration lost 15p to 126p. Lad- bounded 59p to 1.096p. It is to 188p ahead of an analysts'

National Power went 7p Smith Barney lifted its target price to 1,175p and Diageo held at 684p after Morgan Stanley suggested 750p which

Sachs 775p forecast. British Vita, the chemical group, improved 10.5p to Laing support.



Grosvenor Inns, up 3p to 247.5p, enjoyed a Merrilli Lynch endorsement. The investment house accompanied its buy advice with profit estimates of £1.9m for this year, £2.9m for next and then £4.5m. Expectations of more tele-

com consolidation gave BT a 12.5p lift to 637.5p but Cable & Wireless eased 6p to 710p and Colt Telecom 80p to Financials were back in

form. Legal & General added 34.5p to 718p and Bank of Scotland's impressive run continned with a 26.5p gain to 730p. Rea Brothers, a small merchant bank, rose 7.5p to 62.5p after nearly doubled profits and an upbeat state-

Wolseley, the building materials group, remained under the whip of its disappointing interim results, falling a further 16.5p to 435p.

Football scorelines had an impact. Aston Villa's Euro Budget Day profits warning cup defeat pushed the shares

down 27.5p to 632.5p but Sheffield Utd's surprise FA Cup success prompted a 7p

gain to 43.5p. Two newcomers got off to good starts. Hartford arrived on AIM. It is a clothing importer with a hospitality side. Mike Edelson, a Manchester Utd director who masterminded the reverse takeover by Conrad of Sheffield Utd. and then floated Prestbury. now a Nick Leslau vehicle, is behind what would appear to be an acquisitive venture. He has 27 per cent. The shares were placed at 2p and closed

at 2.75p. On Ofex it was the turn of K-Bar, a company running four late-night drinking venues, including one which opened this month in London's Wardour Street. The sbares were placed at 10p and closed at 18.5p.

Claremont Garments recovered 8.5p to 60p after a cut the shares 43p.

TAKING STOCK

Property developer Wiggins climbed 1p to equal its peak at 13.75p. Swiss buying was said to be behind the

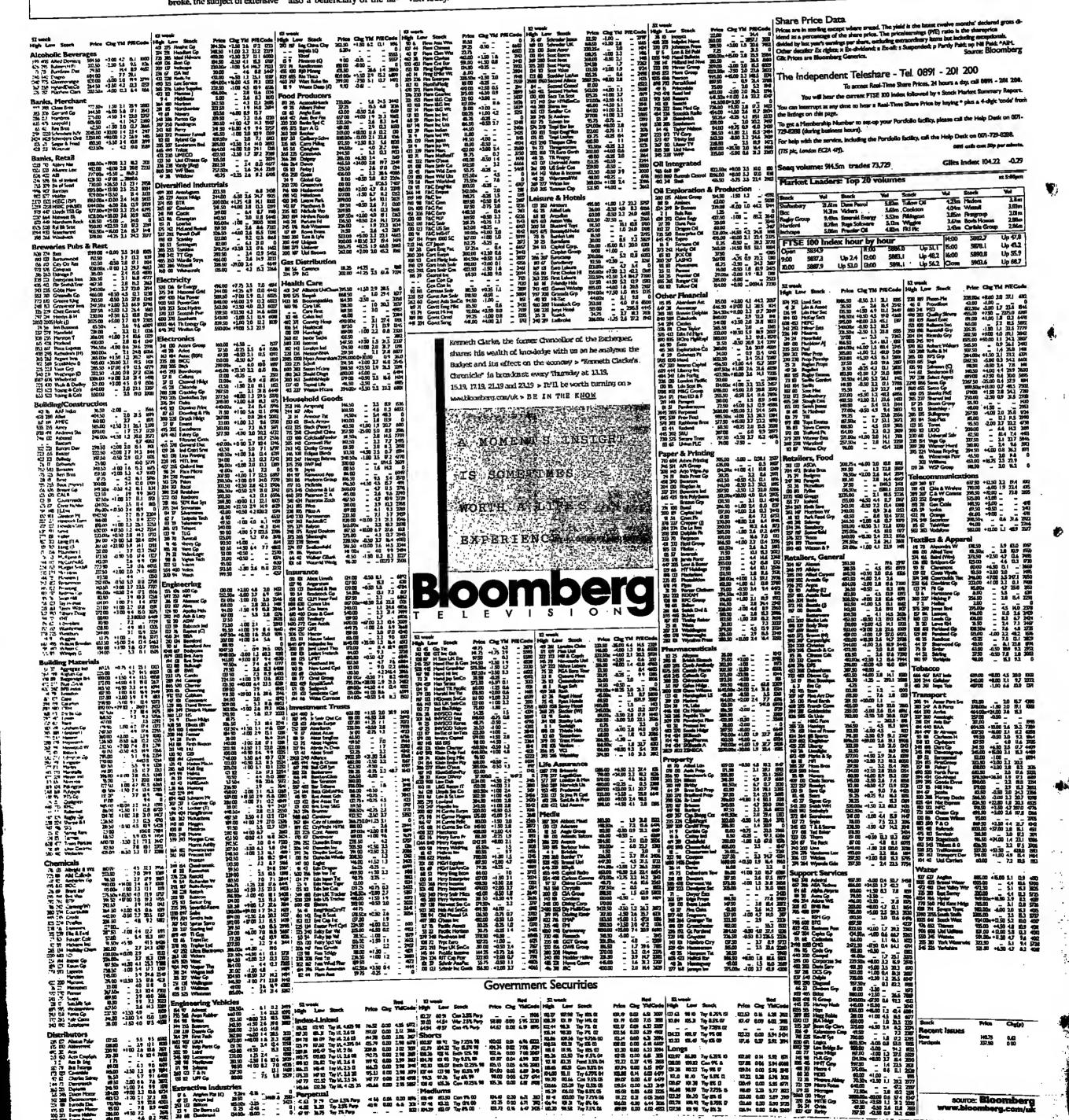
The group is known to be keen to extend its airport operations which currently embrace only Manston in

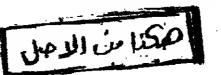
It is hoping to clinch deals to run around half-adozen continental airports and is keen on operating in-

Hanover International, the hotel chain which is thought to have attracted the attention of Jarvis Hotels, held at 143.5p.

Stockbroker Greig Middleton expect profits to climb from £1.95m to £3.5m this year and then go to £4.1m. It puts assets at 219p

Radstone Technology fell 8.5p to 46.5p. It expects a loss, the third in a row. The company is raising £2.1m through a rights issue and placing





How Brown has taken from the rich to give to the poor

JULIAN **MCRAE AND JAYNE TAYLOR** ON THE CHANCELLOR'S TAX AND BENEFIT REFORMS

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TUESDAY'S Budget marked a clear shift in the direction of tax and benefit policy. First, Gordoo Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, decided to redistribute income, against the trend of previous Budgets, from the rich to the poor.

On average, the poorest half of the population will be better off when all the Budget measures are implemented, while the richest half are going to see their incomes fall. And second, Mr Brown got down to the nitty-gritty of tax and benefit reform in a way not seen to this extent since Nigel Lawsoo left Number 11.

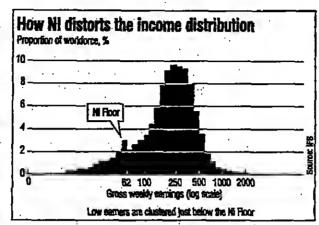
Perhaps the best illustration of these two trends was the changes announced to National Insurance, Like Nigel Lawsoo in the 1980s, Mr Brown used the Budget to remove some of the distortions from the system, in an attempt to enhance the operation of the much heralded flexible labour market. And, also like Lord Lawson, the current Chancellor took the opportunity to engage in some redistribotico of the burdeo of National Insurance.

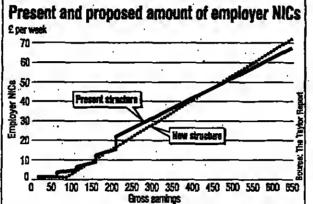
The remaining distortions in National Insurance arise primarily from the "cotry fee" that becomes payable oo all earnings once the lower earnings limit (currently £62 per week) is reached.

This is clearly illustrated by the example of an individual whose weekly earnings increase from £61.99 to the £62 lower earnings limit. Someone rently 10 per cent. earning £61.99 pays oo national insurance.

If their earnings increase by 1p, they have to pay employee cootributions at a rate of 2 per cent on all their earnings, generating an employee NIC liability of £1.24. At the same time their employer starts paying contributions at a rate of 3 per cent (or £1.86).

So, as a consequence of this ings limit. entry fee, a 1p rise in earnings This is proof positive that earning over about £500 a leads to an increase in total nather current system of NICs is year employers will have to pay tional insurance contributions encouraging wage "cluster- higher contributions than at





even more distortions with further discrete "jumps" where

a higher rate of national insurance becomes payable on all earnings as earnings rise, The top rate of employer oational insurance contributions is cur-Why should the operation

of the current system be of con- £81 per week. cern to the Government? The reasoo is easily illustrated by looking at the graph.

most part, the distribution of employer NICs by introducing weekly earnings in the UK is a single rate of 12.2 per cent relatively smooth, the exception being the distinct spike

ing" at these low earnings lev- present.

For employers, the oatioo- els, hardly in keeping with al insurance system introduces this or the last government's well-publicised objective of a flexible labour market.

> In order to address this problem, Mr Brown removed the "entry fee" from both employers and employees. In additioo, he anoouoced that employer contributions would not start until earnings reached

The removal of the employee entry fee cost the Chancellor just over £1bn. However, It is evident that, for the he funded the reductions in on earnings over £81.

This rate is higher than the just below the £62 lower earn- current top rate of 10 per cent and as a result for people This is proof positive that earning over about £500 a Chancellors of this century.

For example, the employer of someone earning £50,000 a year would pay about £1,000 extra in contributions per year. On £500,000 per year, the additional contributions would be over £10,000. As such, the Chancellor has ensured that his reforms will geocrate suh-

high to low earners. All this fits very nicely into the Government's wider policy aim to "make work pay" for those oo low wages.

stantial redistribution from

Mr Brown also hinted at further reforms to come. He announced that the Contributions Ageocy, the part of government that collects National Insurance, was to be merged with the Inland Reveoue.

In addition, he stated that in the loog term the Governmeet intended to raise the point at which employees start paying national insurance to £81 to match the change to employer contribotions.

The £81 figure was not simply choseo at random, but is the weekly equivalent of the income tax personal allowance. Given that national insurance is a tax oo earned income in all hut name, it has loog been the goal of tax reformers to integrate the two systems. Whilst this move hardly represents a full integratioo, it is certainly a move in the right direction.

The first major Budget from a Labour Chancellor in oearly 20 years has finally completed the process of removing the unhelpful distortioos from the National Insurance system - effectively finishing off the series of reforms begun by Lord Lawson in 1985.

But there is hope that Mr Brown will go even further, and finally bring about the integratioo of National Insurance and income tax. Were he to achieve this, Mr Brown would rightly take his place among the great reforming

The authors are researchers at the Institute for Fiscal Studies

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK



A DANGEROUS split at the very top of the Government exploded into the open this week as the Prime Minister's wife prepared to take on the Chancellor over his Budget.

Well, almost, Cherie Booth QC has agreed to represent family brewers Shepherd Neame in their court action against the Government over beer duty. which Gordon Brown put up by a penny a pint

Not that Tony Blair's wife is going out of her way to bash her Downing Street oeighbour. She only heard she might get the joh on Monday, when a colleague in her chambers, Michael Beloff QC, warned he might be unable to make the Appeal Court hearing next week. Mr Beloff has been representing the independent Kent brewers in their action, funded by other family brewers in the UK who are incensed by the higher duties on beer here compared with the rest of the EU.

Mr Beloff has to attend urgeot husiness in the US this Sunday, and the court unexpectedly refused to move its date to accommodate the visit. "This left us in an absolute pickle," said Stuart Neame, vice chairman of Shepherd Neame

Mr Neame said yesterday that Ms Booth would now have to get up to speed with a complicated case, centring on Articles 5 and 99 of the Treaty of Rome, "She's going to have a busy weekend," he said.

"The funny thing is, we had to wait for the Budget to find out what was happening [to beer duty], before we could go on....

"Originally, we applied for an appeal hearing in the High Court, but our writteo application was turned down, much to our amazement. So now we're making an oral application. We want leave to take the matter before the European Court of Justice," Mr Neame said.

The brewer is confident Ms Booth can win the day, giveo her record of handling Euro-Dean cases.

This woo't be the last high profile and potentially controversial case she will be involved with this year. Ms Booth is set to defeod over 200 former employees of BCCI, the crashed watching tennis!

bank, against legal claims by the bank's liquidators for the return of staff mortgages and the like. The role of the Bank of England is likely to feature promineotly in the case.

No doubt Ms Booth will still be welcome in the environs of Number 11 and Threadneedle Street, whatever may be said in the heat of the court room.

THE FORMER chief executive of British & Commonwealth and director of Atlantic Computers who was disciplined this week by regulators over his role in the collapse of the two companies has a new life as a philosophy lecturer at Magdaleo College, Oxford.

Peter Goldie was censured on Monday by the Joint Disciplinary Scheme (JDS), and excluded from the Institute of Chartered Accountants, for, among other things, "approving Atlantic's 1988 accounts which were misleading ... and to have approved B&C's 1988 accounts which were seriously in error."

After the businesses went belly up Mr Goldie, who trained as an accountant straight from school, went to Oxford to take his first degree, in philosophy. He did so well that he eventually got a DPhil from Balliol last September.

Mr Goldie's interview to confirm his DPhil came on Friday, 19th September, before his appearance before the JDS the following Tuesday. The chairman, Sir John Bailey, opened the JDS proceedings with the declaration: "Congratulations, Doctor Goldie."

The theo Mr Goldie had to demur, saying that the DPhil was not official yet.

Sadly, the tycooo turned philosopher was unavailable for comment yesterday. But surely his story proves there is hope for us all.

CORPORATE Charisma, a book by Dr Paul Temporal and Dr Harry Alder, which promises to tell you "how to achieve worldclass recognition by maximising your company's image hrands and culture," has an introduction by The Honourable Sir Rocco

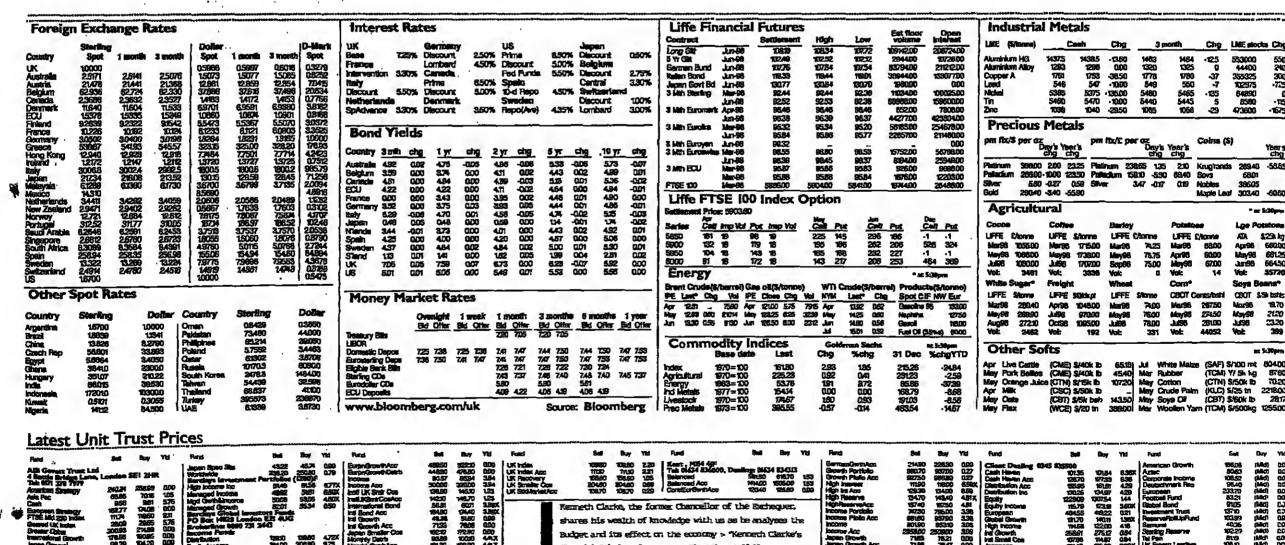
Sir Rocco writes: "The world is a much more competitive place than it was five years ago." Indeed it is. Wasn't it about then that Sir Rocco first heard about Granada's hostile hid

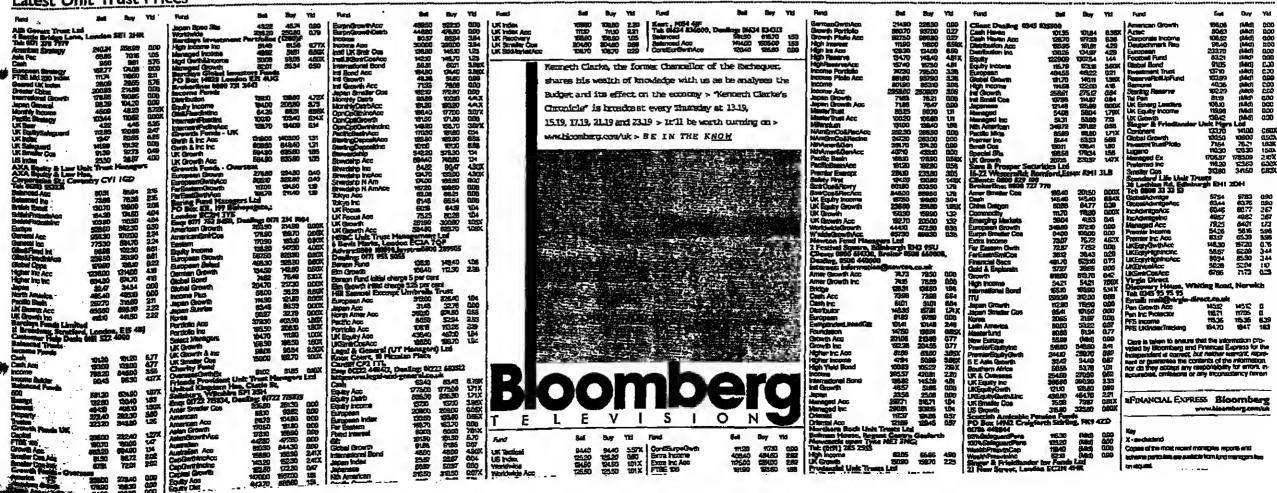
for his family's business empire - while he was out shooting grouse? Nowadays, Sir Rocco opines: "husinesses have to work harder," How true.

CROWE Insurance Group, which manages six syndicates at Lloyd's of London, is to sponsor "Butch", a 165 mph 1968 Z28 Chevrolet Camaro racing car. But Crowe will not be insuring the car itself.

"The car's owner, Tim Bowles, handles insurance for the car," says a Crowe spokesman. Butch is currently having its insurance renewed by IBEX motor policies at Lloyd's. The idea is that the monster car will carry the Crowe logo during races and will whisk brokers and VIPs around various high-speed circuits.

Quentin Crowe, head of marketing at Crowe, says: "The hospitality days we have planned should knock the spots off afternoons





Manninger celebrates coming of age

Glenn Moore talks to the young Arsenal goalkeeper who has excelled in David Seaman's absence

THE first time Arsenal tried to sign an Austrian goalkeeper he was turned away at Dover and had to forge a career in France. Sixty-five years later, the Gunners are grateful that Alex Manninger had no such problems when he came to Highbury

The 20-year-old goalkeeper produced the latest in a series of impressive performances in Arsenal's FA Cup quarter-final replay victory over West Ham at Upton Park on Tuesday. Marininger, deputising for the injured David Seaman, topped a string of hrilliant saves in open play by crucially denying Eyal Berkovic in the penalty shoot-out.

Manninger has kept six successive cican sheets in the Premiership, yet Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, has already made it clear that as soon as Seaman is fit, Manninger will be dropped. "I do not believe in competition between goalkeepers," he said.

Manninger, it would seem, has no problem with that. "I came to Arsenal because David Seaman is the hest goalkeeper in the world," he said yesterday. adding: "I know I still have to learn, to do so from him is the hest education anyhody can have. There can't be a better situation for a young keeper than being behind David Seaman.

"I am the first Austrian goalkeeper to play in England and it was a hig, hig deal to come hut I knew I had to take it because these chances don't come along every day, I never thought I would he playing as regularly though, this is valuable experience for later in my career."

THE price Dennis Bergkamp

against Wolverhampton Wan-



Saving grace: Alex Manninger makes a crucial parry from Eyal Berkovic's penalty in the FA Cup quarter-final on Tuesday

bert Chapman tried to sign from Austria in the 1930s, failed. Hiden was refused entry by immigration officials and instead played for Racing Club in Paris. Manninger could also

Manninger has succeeded hut only temporarily, Already where Rudi Hiden, who Her- capped at Under-21 level, he is pushing for a place in Austria's World Cup squad.

Manninger said he had nevfore the penalty shoot-out be headed across the Channel, - faced one before in Europe you have to take his advice as and experienced team."

[the Arsenal coach] came to me in training and it worked and I with information beforehand, but you never know whether things like that are going to work er been so nervous as he was be- out. You are by yourself really.

David Seaman had shown

against Internazionale, "Pat Rice he is a penalty killer. I tried it in these post-Bosman days, tried it tonight and it worked. Arsenal may look to cash in on The save from Berkovic was the Seaman - maybe even this sumkey, I managed to get my hand mer - if Manninger continues to it and it was a wonderful feelto progress. The latter seems ing. We did so well with 10 men, though he had - unsuccessfully me something in training and it was clear to see we are a good

certain given his attitude. "I have given up a lot in my life just to concentrate on my foothall, perhaps a lot more Bergkamp to miss Cup semi-final after red card than other people. That's how I am, I can't change now: I'm a very straight guy. I do special training all the time and I am

It has been rumoured that,

very self-critical.
"If I let a goal in, either in the outside chance of an ex- training or a match, I always would seem to come under the tension to the League season - look for my own mistakes and a subject over which he and Alex I beat myself np mentally to try Wenger's concern is that he Ferguson fell out last term and sort them out. It makes me work harder.

"I'm strong-willed and oothish the campaign with four ing really gets me down. I just games in nine days. Wenger has want to work and work and work until there is nothing I can plication this time hut said: learn. That is still a long way off, "There could still be a case for but now everyone knows I can play." Especially West Ham.

grounds would not be fit for home games between Decem-

There is still a chance that England, allowing them to play

But the likelihood is that at least one of the key home games will he played at the start of the 1999-2000 season, most probably at Old Trafford, where

the capacity of around 55,000 is Italy represented the first home that the weather meant their closest to Wembley's figure.

cause I understand be has been

approached by Jamaica as well,

which is their prerogative he-

cause be was born there. He did

pared to hang in there for him."

main at the club, despite reports

that he was about to be sacked.

Stoke are two points adrift at the

foot of the table and have won

Villa finally rediscover self-belief

TALK about a fine line separating success from failure. In the quarter-final analysis, only Midlanders can draw the tips of a Spanish goalkeeper's gloves stood between Aston much heart from the Villa and a place in the last four of a European competition for the first time in 16 years.

Elimination from the Uefa Cup, with José Molma's crucial late save from Lee Hendrie squeezing Atletico Madrid through on the away-goals rule. effectively ended Villa's season. Yet there was much in their 2-1 win on the night to hearten John Gregory as he plans for 1998-99 and beyond.

Stari Collymore, the most conspicuous success, spoke for all connected with Villa when he remarked that the European run had restored the players' self-belief. He added, perhaps a trifle richly given his modest form since Brian Little lavished £7m on him, that the new manager's priority now should be to raid the market.

"We need to add a couple of players to the squad if we're going to get back into Europe next season and start pushing for the League. We need more quality in depth," Collymore said. "If we can do that we can achieve what we set out to do this season."

While Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, has promised that funds are available, the logic behind Gregory's appointment was that the club did not need a major rehuilding job, merely someone simultaneously fresh and familiar to hring out the

qualities already present. During Gregory's threehave all but secured their Premiership status, wins against Liverpool and now Spain's "third force" have done much to suggest that the change has had the desired effect.

manner of their Uefa Cup elimination

A measure of the transformation can be gauged from the fact that the last seven League fixtures under Little produced a solitary success and saw Villa turfed out of the FA Cup by Coventry on their own ground.

As often happens when there is a change at the top. certain under-achievers are suddenly living up to their potential. Collymore, for one, has gone from lethargic to lethal almost overnight.

Watched by England's assistant coach, John Gorman, he scored the winner as he did on his previous appearance, against Liverpool. More pertinently for Villa's long-term prospects, he panicked Atletico's previously imperious defence with his strength and shooting power after coming on in the second half.

Hendrie, a peripheral figure during Little's reign, has also blossomed since receiving a sustained run. Steve Staunton. meanwhile, has demonstrated class and versatility that will give him increased bargaining power when Villa attempt to dissuade him from leaving when his contract expires during the summer.

Gregory will use the remaining seven matches to assess whether the squad he inheritweek crash course, in which they ed, and indeed coached until 17 months ago, are capable of producing this form on a consistent basis. Players who perform only on high-profile occasions will, one suspects, he giv-

Vialli asks for a rare clean sheet

By Mark Burton

GIANLUCA VIALLI has told his Chelsea players not to take any risks in their European Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-final first-leg advantage over Real Betis into a semi-final place.

Chelsen's player-manager, who sat out the victory in Spain two weeks ago, wants his team to concentrate on grinding out the right result. "For me a draw would be a wonderful result - a perfect result," he said, "And the best way to go about it."

That is easier said than done and, if Vialli's vast experience of European competition with Ju- the midfielder Fernando, who ventus and Sampdoria has not are suspended, but are in good taught him that, he need only look back to the match in Spain for proof. Tore Andre Flo scored both Chelsea's goals before Betis

had found their stride that night. Chelsea's individually talented defence is collectively flawed. and Vialli's decision to play Ed de Goey only in Cup ties and Dimitri Kharine in the Preof their goal. They have not kept a clean sheet for eight games.

"We cannot set out to get a draw with the Spanish team by being completely negative, Vialli said. "We must still play at Stamford Bridge tonight our football and try to score with when they try to convert their 2-1 a counter-attack but above all we have to be concentrated and aware in defence. There must be no silly mistakes because there

have been too many of those." Vialli is still without his leftback, Graeme Le Saux, and Zola, Di Matteo, Wise, Duberry and Nicholls could all be handicapped by the knowledge that keeping a clean sheet would be a caution would mean missing

the first leg of the semi-final. Betis are without the defender Roberto Solozabal and form after moving up to fourth in the Spanish league with a draw against Atletico Madrid and a victory over Salamanca. They have a superb striker in Spain's Alfonso, who scored in the first leg, as well as the Nigerian Finidi George, and the Croatian

set-piece specialist, Robert Jami. A clean sheet would be quite miership puts in question vital an achievement in the face of lines of communication in front such firepower.

Bullivant ends Poland foil England's plan for Wembley matches Reading rule

TERRY BULLIVANT has resigned as manager of Reading. His decision comes after the a deal. Elm Park cluh dropped closer to relegation from the First thought they had come to Division with a 3-0 defeat at Oxford on Tuesday night.

Although they knocked Leeds United out of the Coca- Poland - at a meeting in Lon-Cola Cup carlier in the season. don on 1 March. Reading have the worst defensive record in the First Division. having conceded 66 goals, and are currently second from botiom of the league. Bullivant joined Reading from Barnet in June 1997.

Manchester City are ready to sign Jamie Pollock from Botton Wanderers for £800,000, and ROY EVANS, the Liverpool

is joining Stockport Cuunty on loan for the rest of the a new contract with Auxerre, season.

Jason Drysdale, who cost £340,000 from Newcastle in 3-2 on aggregate by the Italians. March 1995, has had his contract terminated by Swindon.

Football results

1 UESCURY

UEFA CUP Quarter-Bratis second leg: Aston
Villa 2 (Caylor 72, Callymore 31) Allebco Madnd
1 (Carrence 29) (2-2 or) apprepais) Allebco
Medicid who on away goods); Auston 2 (Guivmich 39 80) Lozio 2 (Mandre pen 7, Gottardi
C) (1907 2-3); Schelle 1 (Goossers 90) inborreszoniste 1 (West 82) (other setts hine; 40gr.
1-31: Sportal Misscon 1 (Sheka 83) Ajax 0 (1995.

and play Wolves at Wile Park.

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE First Division: Oxidat Unit 3 (Bosschamp 44 70 Gray Vision: Oxidat Unit 3 (Bosschamp 44 70 Gray Vision: Carlot Unit 3 (Bosschamp 45 Carlot 1) (Barron 5 Bassley Ed) Carlot 1 (Streens 69) (Wigen 1 (Lose 64) Southerd 3 (Tromson 32) Romand 33 Winna 87); Wheatam 1 (Roberts 6) (Barron 6)

Symbol 0. AUTO WINDSCREEDS SHIELD Northern FL-Nat Second Leg: Burnley 0 Gamely 2 (L. No-pan 10 Donoten 57) (egg. 1-3). Seubrern Finel Second leg: Bournemouth 2 (Evens og 55. Second leg: Bournemouth 2 (Evens og 55. Delinn 82) Washall 3 (Thomas 47, Boll 53. Theor

visit Bolton Wanderers, five days day at Highbury a week on Satplay, if necessary, is already will pay for his elbow in the face scheduled fur the following mas on Tuesday night became lier rounds, police require a min-

derers at Villa Park on 5 April. to return for the home game However, if that match is against Newcastle on 11 April.

nial rivals, Poland, reneged on

agreement with the other mem-

hers of Group Five - Bulgaria,

Sweden. Luxembourg and

ments they made, which means

But the Poles, unhappy with

The Football Association

before the semi-final, and a re- urday but a booking then would put him on eight yellow cards of West Ham United's Steve Lo- Wednesday even though, in ear- suspension for two matches. Bergkamp has been booked

England's hopes of making full the meeting will count for noth-til today to send us details of the

use of Wemhley in their Euro ing, with a ballot conducted by fixtures. That limit cannot be ex-

Sources within European

football's governing body con-

firmed that the Poles were re-

sponsible for the breakdown.

Discussions between the two

sides failed to find a way out of

the impasse and with the 60-day

limit for fixture scheduling run-

A Uefa spokesman said yes-

ning out vesterday. England

will play their qualifiers.

clear yesterday. The Dutch- imum of 10 days' notice from the nine times already this term. But man's three-match han will in- Football Association to organize one of those was in the Cocacorporate the FA Cup semi-final. their match-day security forces. Cola Cup which has no bearing So Bergkamp could be free on Premiership or FA Cup suspensions and another has been deleted under the experimental drawn, there will be a silver lin- But the £7.5m striker is still in FA system which rewards playing. The suspension starts a danger of a further han. He is ers who complete five consecu-

2000 qualifying matches have Uefa tomorrow deciding in-

been dashed after their peren- stead when and where England

the way the meeting worked out, will now he forced to play ac-

that all the decisions made at terday: "All the nations had un-

have gone back on the agree- cording to Uefa's timetable.

Bergkamp and Patrick take place on FA Cup semi fi-Vicira have already been fined nal day, must be found. by Arsène Wenger this season for the season and incuranother for dissent, and retaliation same heading.

will miss key players for the backlog of fixtures which is piling up at a frightening rate. Arsenal still have 10 League games to go - compared to Manchester United's seven and now a new date for the trip

tended. Those groups where the

fixtures have not been organised

draw for the semi-finals of the

three cluh competitions in Lau-

he was hopeful England could

play as many of their home qual-

ifiers as possible at Wembley,

which closes in June 1999 for its

Last Fehruary's defeat by

sanne on Friday."

Wenger believes there is still

when the United manager objected to his team having to finno plans to make a similar apweek on Tuesday, when Arsenal free to face Sheffield Wednes- tive matches without a booking. to Liverpool, which was due to it if it is fair to everybody."

World Cup or European Championship qualifying defeat sustained by England since Bobby

Robson's side were beaten by

will be decided by us after the David Davies, the FA's director of public affairs, said yesterday: "The majority of The FA's chief executive, countries were satisfied after the Graham Kelly, said after the meeting, and we were among draw in Ghent in January that them. We knew there were season. some outstanding issues and we understand these haven't been resolved - which means every-

Denmark in 1983.

thing will now collapse. "At the meeting, some of the other countries told us

when we might have to play them." the fixtures could fall right for

ber and March, but that is

their main rivals at home - and therefore at Wembley - next

PAUL D'MELLO, Dunfermline's general manager, yesterday intimate to me this afternoon that he was happy to consider my reacted angrily to racist allegainvitation. I've heard no more tions against the club from their from the player and I'm preformer captain Dave Barnett who left East End Park last week to join Port Vale on a three-Stoke insist that their firstteam coach, Chic Bates, is to remonth loan.

Barnett, the former Birmingham defender, claimed in a newspaper article that he was leaving Dunfermline was because of racist taunts from some of the playing staff.

Claims of racism rejected D'Mello, who is of Indian descent, said: "I have had seven happy years at this club. It is a family and community club, Everyone is welcome here, no matter their colour, creed or background. We totally refute

this allegation of racism. "We've had no complaint from Dave about the way he was treated here and I will not launch a Spanish inquisition on the strength of an article. He told me he had to go for family reasons."

Evans watches Guivarc'h as France's striker hints at Premiership move

£200m millennium refit.

could also sign West Bromwich manager, was watching with in-Alhion's Andy Hunt in a terest as French striker Stephane £300,000 deal by the weekend. Guivarc'h scored twice for Aux-The Manchester United erre in their Uefa Cup match centre-hack Runnie Wallwork with Lazio on Tuesday night.

Guivare h is tefusing to sign who are now out of European competition after being beaten

Guivare'h scored on his international debut against South The 27-year-old has suffered Africa this season, having prochronic injuries and made only gressed from Brest, Guingamp 53 first-team appearances for and Rennes, where he scored 22 goals last season.

BELL'S SCOTTISM LEAGUE First Division: Hambon 1 (Cark 12 Reith 4 (Fibrisy 17, Walk-or pen 59 McGer 19, 98, Second Division: Brectim Jumpston 2 (Catalphan 31, Moore 43, Clyde-bank 6 East File 3 (Fibrer 34 Ronald 95, Dyer 19) Third Division: Rosa County 6 (Fibrall 13 Campbel CD, McBon 23, Coyle 09 24, Adams 44, Haro 89, Albon Roser 2 (Rosa) pen 78, Bruce 99.

PYRAM LEAGUE Promise Civinions Bronley 2 Heyoridgo Switts 2: Carshalton 0 Borehom Wood 2: Cresham 15 Abarrs 2: Harrow 0 Ca-goritam 8 Headrade 5, First Devisions: Bognor Roys 3 Pomised 0: Newtoniend 2 Abrondon Com

He clearly sees his career developing away from Auxerre, and said: "I want to experience something different, and it is England that tempts me most. then Germany, then Italy."

Meanwhile, Liverpool's home match with Arsenal has been moved from Saturday 4 April to Wednesday 6 May, as the Gunners will be playing their FA Cup semi-final against Wolverhampton Wanderers that weekend. David Johnson, the Ipswich

striker, is at the centre of a three-

way battle for his international

Leighton 1; Wivenhoe 0 Bayesteed 2. Third bi-vision: Cemberley 3 Capten 0; Constheir Ce-scale 2 Wingale & Finchley 0, Harritori 2 Donath 0 Vandasel Trophy sensi-finate: Epicam 0 Bac-lord Town 1; Westigtone 0 Epsom 8 Evell 1.

root lown I; westpaction is gegann is gegen in UNIBOND LEAGUE Premiser Division: Leigh I Gamaborough 0; Runcom B Conlym Bay 0. Prist Division: Belbert 4 Completon 0; Gritina 1 Fis-ton 1. Leegue Cup semi-final Britt legs Afri-chem 2 Control y UniBilla First Division Cup semi-final Britt legs Braffoot 1 Beactord Park Ay-

1 logg: 4-3).

OR MARTENS LEAGUE Prumler Division:
Ashtord 9 Stitingbourne 1: Greekey Rovers 1 Mastrogs 2. Kings Livin 2 Tammersh 1, Marthyr Tyd16 4 Discribester 0 Seathern Divisions: Eith &
Behedere 2 Clovedon 1; Margate 2 Reet 1.
ARRIOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE
First Divisions South Shelds 1 Eatington 3

First Division: South Shalids 1 Easteglon 3
UHLEPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Promiser Division: Buddingham Youn 2 Stowarts & Louds Cotty 0: Cognition 3 Wootton 2: Elynaphury 1 Minited Buddingham Youn 2: Elynaphury 1 Minited Buddingham O. Wellinghorough 1 Shatidg 2, Standard 4 Bourns 2.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Baddpool Rosers 1 Yeuthal (SM 2; Darson 0: Creationto 0, Mathe Road 2 Sellord 1; Proscondes 1 Milegrove 0.

WINSTOMLEAN MEMORY 1 P. A.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division:

England and Northern Ireland. Lawrie McMenerny, the new manager of Northern Ireland, has asked him to play in next week's friendly against Slovakia at Windsor Park, hut Rene

by Jamaica, where be was born,

Simoes, coach of the the Reggae Boyz, wants to call him up for the World Cup qualifiers' mini-Britisb tour against Queen's Park Rangers and Wales, which starts on Saturday. Johnson could also opt for

England and he was on the hench for the Under-21 inservices. Juhnson, 21, is wanted ternational against Greece at

4; Stade Green II Herne Bay 2; Tunbridge Wall II Erth Town 0; Whitesable 2 Careerbury (

Bith Town C, Whitstable 2 Carearbury (
UNILET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE Plet Division: Horston YNICA 3 Little-tempton 2;
Shopetan 1 Sabdean 0.
SCREWING UNBECT LEAGUE Premier Obtainor
Bristo Mantor Form 1 Chipperham 1; Bridgeeter 1 Terringion 1; Chard 1 Medicinam 1; Westony O Carlo 3 Lee Phillips Cup quarrie-final:
Mengotslatd 3 Biddord 0 (other some final).

ENECOM RECEPTER LEAGUE Develope (Medicinam).

Meigotsiaki 3 Bidelord II (Aller saiza Arte). JEWSON BASTERN LEAGUE Pramier Diplakon Clarich 2 Sudbury Wanderson 1; Felertein 2 Gor fesion 1; filiaton f Gried Mermouth (; Mewmer-let 2 Wastoya 1; Walton 1 Ely 2; Woodbridge 1 Wrodnight ().

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE Kings Norton 3 Straford 0, Knypersiey 2 Wednesfeld 2; Willerhall 2 Ficcesier 2

Carrier 2.

LEAGUE OF WALES Gilbert Cap sort-firm first tag: Bengor Cay 0 Coernarion ().

PONTHIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Blackburn (). Derby 1: Nothinghein Format 2 Premier 2.

AVOI INSURANCE COLLEGIANTON First Division: Assertal 1. Dibantism ().

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Fith-round replay: Crawe 1 Pelesborough 3.

WELSH CUP Quarter-direct replay: N

Johnson qualifies to play for any of the home nations because he is a British passport holder who was born abroad. McMencmy revealed his predecessor and now Ipswich

Carrow Road in December.

coach, Bryan Hamilton, had helped him with Johnson and he is hopeful that the former Manchester United trainee will give Northern Ireland a chance. "I invited him to come with

us and I thought he was all right so we sent the letters off and everything else," he said. "But it's just eight of their 38 League become a bit complicated be- games this season.

Broken mast ends Edwards' non-stop world record attempt

Sailing By Stuart Alexander

A CREW of 12 women racing a giant catamaran in one of the most remote areas of the Southwould ever want to disaster coast of Chile. yesterday.

A May Day call alcrted rescue services that the mast of the 92-ft catamaran Royal & Sun Alliance had crashed on to the twin decks, hringing to a dra- Tracy Edwards, said. "About five matic end the first all-women at minutes later creaking could be stop record of 71 days 14 hours.

tempt to sail round the world heard from the mast and the non-stop.

The incident happened during the night as the yacht was being driven in winds gusting between 30-50 knots midway between New Zealand and Cape ern Ocean came as close as they Horn, and 2,000 miles from the and the crew hastily cut away the

"A huge wave came up from hehind, lifting the stern and burying both bows in the wave ahead, bringing the boat to a shuddering halt," the skipper,

whole thing just crumpled and broke up as it hit the hull."

The crashing mast set off a distress signal which was picked up by Falmouth coastguards. However, no one was injured mast as it threatened to punch a hole in a hull. The boat will now head for Chile under jury rig.

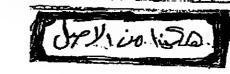
"We are disappointed beyond belief as we were getting so close to Cape Horn," said Edwards, who was chasing the non-

And the second s

A CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY O

■ The decision by Lawrie Smith to hug the coast was paying dividends last night as the British boat, Silk Out, led the Whithread Round the World fleet past Recife on the north-east corner of Brazil on day five of the sixth leg to Fort Lauderdale.

WHITEREAD MOUND THE WORLD RACE (abigh lag, 4,750 million, Sito Sebenstillo, Brit, to Fort Lauderdelle, US): 1 SEC Cut (GB) L Smith 35474 miles to finish; 2 innovation (wasmer (Nar) Krested 23 miles behind leader; 3 EF Language (Swe) P Ceyard + 179; 4 Cheete Facting (US) J Krested + 204; 8 Seinbe (US) P Standordege + 23; 6 Brunet Sunergy (Neth) R Helter + 222; 7 Merit Cup (Morsaco) © Debon+226; 8 Sp. Education (Swe) C Gulliou + 312; 9 Swedich Moth (Swe) G Krantz + 53.



illa finally discover of the discover

Woodward counts on 'iron' Ryan

Rugby Union

SIX weeks ago, John Mitchell was so appalled by the performance of the Red Rose forwards as they slipped effortlessly into reverse gear against the French in Paris that he felt moved to question their manhood. "You're too damned soft," snarled England's assistant coach before presenting his chastened charges with the following stark choice: either start kicking some rear ends or take up gardening.

Well, there will be nothing soft about the England eight at Murrayfield on Sunday; indeed, Mitchell would be well advised to wear a hard hat in training over the next couple of days. Dean Ryan, the big bad wolf of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, is back at No 8 for the first time in six long wilderness years and judging by the glint in his eye during yesterday's run-out at Twickenham, he will have to be physically restrained from rucking the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards off

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their own bagpipes. As befits a man raised in the ball-breaking rugby environment of New Zealand's north island, Mitehell looked well pleased with Ryan's sudden promotion from the back of beyond. "I think we're all aware that we're about to walk into an ambush, a hijack, at Murrayfield this weekend," he said. "The Scots are the sporting equivalent of a wounded animal and any side coached by Jim Telfer tends to be well up for the big occasion, so physical presence is going to be very important from our point of view."

If Newcastle United have a hard, niggly, uncompromising bag of trouble in David Barry, the Newcastle Falcons have their own heavier, eloogated version in Ryan. Now going on 32, he squared up to all comers for both
Saracens and Wasps-before
adopting honorary Geordie sta
adopting honorary Geordie stabefore

Adobtyo (Bath): P Enguiston (Northumpton): J Leonard

Start H Demand (Northumpton): J Leonard

Management (Northumpton): J Leonard

Managem tus a little over two years ago and it is somehow typical of the man that two of his three previous England caps should have been earned amid the blood-curdling rugby mayhem of a Bueuos

"I can't say I've spent much time thinking about whatever England future I might bave," he said yesterday. "In one sense, you always feel you have an outside chance while you're playing Premiership rugby, just because you go up against current internationals every week of the season. Having said that, I half wondered whether the England scene might have passed me by. Once Clive Woodward called me into the squad last week, however, I considered myself in with a chance.

my place in the team so you won't see a different Dean Ryan on Sunday, just because it's an international. Previous England coaches have tried to force things on me, but Clive wants me to play the game I play for Newcastle and that suits me fine. I'll try my utmost to be myself, to do what I do week in, week out. If I can' achieve that, I'll be happy. It will be up to the coaches to decide whether I'm worth sticking with."

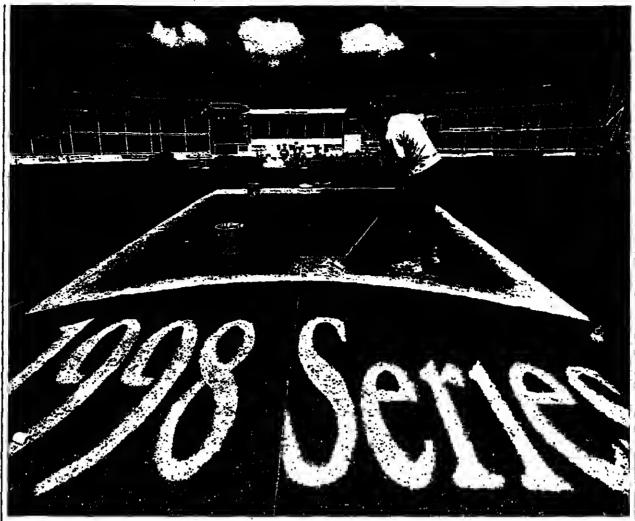
Ryan replaces the injured Saracen, Richard Hill, as one of four enforced changes to the side that put 60 humiliating points on Wales at Twickenham a month ago. "It was a close call, what with Tim Rodber and Tony Diprose in the frame," admitted Woodward. "However, I'm a great believer in looking at people in pressure situations and I need to see how Dean responds. I know a fair bit about the others; I started the season with Tony, who is still on the bench, and as for Tim, I've told him that I want more pace in his game, "

Woodward's other casualtyinspired tinkerings were more straightforward. Adedayo Adebayo returns on the left wing, four months after being told that he was not quite quick enough for Test rugby, while Matt Dawson fills in for Kyran Bracken at scrum-half. In the front row, Phil Vickery's shoulder injury gives Darren Garforth another chance at tight head.

There has been no such injury fall-out north of the border so Telfer and his fellow selectors agreed yesterday to keep faith with the starting line-up that could and should have accounted for Wales at Wembley. That gives the formidable Ryan an unexpected opportunity to test the of the second Test in Calcutta mettle of three of his clubmates: Alan Tait, Gary Armstrong and Doddie Weir. If they have any sense, they will call him "Sir".

iori, M Dession (Northempton); J Leosard (Harleguins), R Cockertill, O Gartorth, M Johnson (all Leioseto), G Archer (Newces-tie), L Dellegillo (Wesps, capit, O Ryan (Newcestie), R Beck (Leiosete), Replace-ments: P De Giarrello (Bath), J Williamon (Newcestie), S Benton (Goucestor), G Rown-true (Leiosete), O West (Leiosete), O Green-cook (Suracete), O West (Leiosete), O Green-secott Suracete), A Discose (Sardonn), SCOTT AND. O Lear (Leoster) cuck (Suraceris), A Diprose (Suraceris): SCOTLAND: O Lee (London Scotlish): T Stanger (Hewick), A 18th (Newcastle Fatons), G Townstead (Northermoton), F Longeter (Dundee High School FP): C Chaimers (Meluse), G Armstrong (Newcastle Falcons, capt): In Hitton (Beth), G Butloch (Nest of Scotland), M Stewart (Northermoton), In Crontin (Nesses), Il Welt (Newcastle Falcons), R Windowski, Il Welt (Newcastle Falcons), R Windowski, Clundee HSFP), E Paters (Beth), A Rocchargh (Malso), Replacements: H Gilmour (Heriots FP), C Murray (Hewick), A Nicol (Beth), A Pouchasy (Malso), Heriotharmoton), S Grimme (Nessoniers), G Graham (Newcastle Falcons), G Ellin (Currie).

 Scott Gibbs has withdrawn from the Wales side for Saturday's Five Nations' Championship game against Ireland in Dublin with a shoulder injury. Cardiff's Leigh Davies comes in to win his 17th cap, while "My cluh form has given me Davies' place on the bench.



Whiter shade of grass: The groundstaff at work on the outfield yesterday at St John's, Antigua, where the sixth Test between the West Indies and England begins tomorrow Photograph: David Ashdown

Lloyd confident that Antigua pitch will hold few terrors

THE England coach, David Lloyd, is unconcerned about the Antigua Test pitch, which has been relaid for the final Test which begins tomorrow.

"This pitch has never been played on. They had a club

THE Indian bowling pair of Jav-

agal Srinath and Anil Kumble

shot out Australia for a modest

total of 233 on the opening day

The Australians, thrashed by

179 runs in the first Yest, faltered

again after their captain, Mark

Taylor, won the toss and chose

to bat on a seaming Eden Gar-

The vice-captain, Steve

vesterday.

dens wicket.

match 10 days ago on a pitch and obviously it would be difclose to it, and the ball went ferent for a Test match. through fairly nicely, by all ac-"I think there is a worry counts," Lloyd said. "The scores about how it will play, but it's

were 210 and 206, and Mark a worry for the West Indies as

Ramprakash's father watched much as for us." part of the game and said the surface looked quite good. But

short fielding practice yesterday

drawn Test in Barbados, "We England's players had a did fancy our chances to win there, and it would have been that was only a two-day affair at their Antigua resort base, and a terrific day," he said.

Waugh's bold defiance delays Indians hatsmen contributed just 13 batted for nearly two hours to Waugh saved the hat-trick but add 54.

> Kasprowicz made a careerbest 25 before fending at a short hall from Saurav Ganguly. Mohammad Azharuddin completed a fine running catch in the slips. Ganguly then trapped Robertson leg-before for 29 in the day's final over to match the three wickets each by

 After sending down a no-ball with his fourth delivery, Srinath The vice-captain, Steve

Australia, who were 178 for Waugh, made a brave 80, sharing a 112-run stand for the further embarrassment by the fifth wicket with Ricky Ponting, who made 60, but the top four and Michael Kasprowicz, who middle stump uprooted. Mark

Australia, who were 178 for had Michael Slater caught at short leg off the fifth. Next ball, leaves 174-20; Chesten 174-20-3; Ches Australia, who were 178 for had Michael Slater caught at

Srinath and Kumhle.

he succumbed leg-hefore in Srinath's fourth over - then Tayfor fell before the hour was up.

they will practice fully at the St

John's Recreation Ground to-

day. Lloyd insisted spirit was

good in the England camp, de-

spite the disappointment of the

Golf

Falt 1-1 2-1 3-15, 4-29, 5-141, 5-151, 7-168, 8-178, 9-232.

Should Davies achieve the approaches from rugby union. charities fighting domestic vio-34-year-old Englishwoman will receive a \$300,000 bonus on top

Under the regulations, there champion, Leo Diegel.

FI's fudge in debate over team orders

Motor racing

By Derick Allsop

FORMULA ONE drivers will have to be seen to be winning races in future - although subtle arrangements between teammates will still be permitted.

That appears to be the upshot of deliberations by the World Motor Sports Council, the policy-making arm of FIA, motor racing's governing body. in the wake of McLaren-Mercedes' t-2 victory at the Australia Grand Prix earlier this month.

David Coulthard's extravagant gesture in slowing down and allowing through Mika Hakinnen, two laps from the end of the race in Melbourne, caused consternation among the local organisers and observers around the world. The Scot did it on the basis that the Finn beat him to the first bend at the start of the race. He explained that the two drivers had made that deal before the race.

Within the sport, team orders are considered perfectly acceptable and have been since the first wheel turned in anger. The problem this time was Coulthard's blatant concession of the honour. which may have served to make his point but which the FIA

hopes now to eradicate. Delegates decided at the

meeting in Paris yesterday to

inform race stewards that "any act prejudicial to the interests of any competition" should be penalised severely.

That seems to hand stewards the dubious and difficult responsibility of deciding when team orders bring the sport into disrepute. It is a classic Formula One verdict.

McLaren will doubtless ensure any internal deal at the Brazilian Grand Prix, on Sunday week, is suitably camouflaged. The team's managing director, Ron Dennis, had cautioned against a "knee-jerk" reaction, stressing that any strategy devised in the imerests of the team was an age-old ploy.

McLaren will have another race to show their dominance. with the confirmation that the French Grand Prix will go ahead at Magny-Cours on 28 June after the settling of a dispute over television rights.

A former world champion. Nigel Mansell, could be on the verge of a racing comeback in the British Touring Car Championship. Ford are to announce tomorrow they have *attracted one of the greatest names in motor sport" to drive a Mondeo.

The 44-year-old Mansell was patently not deterred by a touring car accident at Donington in 1993 which put him in hospital. The opening round of the BTCC is at Thruxton on 13 April.

Davies chases her historic five-timer

By Andy Farrell

THEY are calling it a potential "five-peat", a phrase almost as unlovely as the Standard Register Ping, the name of the tournament on the LPGA Tour that

tournament for four successive years when the former world No 1 beat Kelly Robbins in a playoff at Moon Valley, in Phoenix, last year. Only Walter Hagen and Gene Sarazen can match the feat from the men's game.

historic victory, local Arizona lence and child ahuse will benefit by \$1m (£625,000), while the of the first prize of \$127,500.

It was almost 70 years ago that Hagen attempted to win the USPGA Championship, then a matchplay event, for a fifth time but lost by two holes in the quarter-finals to the eventual

Sarazen never got the chance to win the Miami Open for a fifth time. From 1931 the tournament changed format and was not recognised on the schedule.

Davies, Britain's highestearning sportswoman, has dominated the Moon Valley course. one of the longest on the Laura Davies will attempt to win woman's circuit, thanks to her big for a record fifth time this week. hitting. But after winning 24 Davies became the first times around the world from with her putting over the last year and fallen behind Annika Sorenstam, Karrie Webb and Robbins oo the world rankings.

She said recently: "Last year was frustrating and if 1 keep playing and putting the way I did last year for another two or three years. I'll be sorely tempted to find another occupation."

If missing the cut at last

week's tournament in Tucson was not the best preparation, it might prove a good omen since Davies did exactly the same last year. On the other hand, should victory be delayed a week Davies may not mind. The Nabisco Dinah Shore is the one US major Davies has yet to win and the Mission Hills course is her favourite in America.

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MARKET MANAGEMENT AND ASSESSMENT

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97 ...

Super League clubs' funds blocked for breaching salary cap

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

A CLUTCH of Super League clubs, including Wigan, the biggest of the lot, have had money withheld for breaching the League's new salary cap. Around half the elite clubs have seen their monthly payments from News Corporation Llanelli's Neil Boobyer takes cut for the first time, because

Bowls

half their income on players' could demonstrate that salaries eral will be vulnerable to

runs. Australia were reduced to

29 for 4 within the first hour

after Srinath made a dramatie

start with two wickets in the first

over. Kumble then cut through

stomach cramps during his four-

hour vigil, missed his 15th Test

century by 20 runs when his run-

ner, Greg Blewett, was involved

in a mix-up with Gavin Robert-

Steve Waugh, stricken by

the lower order.

son soon after tea.

The League has a policy of not naming the clubs involved. but it is understood that Wigan are the worst offenders. Their outlay on salaries is estimated cent of income, which would mean tosing more than half of tract for 1999 and 2000. their £65,000 monthly cheque.

ZIMBABYFE - First loolings 321 (G W Flow-er 156, H H Streak 53, Wager Younis 5-106).

PAKISTAN - First lunings 256 (Yousel Youhens 60; G J Whittell 4-63).

ZIMBABWE - Second lankings \$02 for 4 dec (M W Goodwin 108no, A Flower 100no).

Total (107 6, 95.3 57943) — 258 Full: 1-26, 2-54, 3-70, 4-80, 5-190, 6-258. Bowling: Streek 19-6-42-3; Mitergon 22-13-23-1; Strang 27-3-69-1; G Whittel 19-5-61-C; A Whittel 8-3-28-0; Goodwin 2-0-3-0; Vijoen 3.3-0-14-1

Umpires: (Robinson (Eng) and 11 Shepherd (Eng).

The Warwickshire batsman Andy

The Warwickshire basman Andy Moles has signed a one-year contract to coach South Africa's Supersport Champions. Free State, next white: The 37-year-old opener has been appointed first-heam coach in Bloem-fontein after working with their B squad for the last two seasons. Moles will take up the offer before returning home for his 13th season with Warwickshire. He is recovering from a serious Achilles intury but hopes to be

PAKISTAN - Second Innings

Zimbebwe won toss

FIRST TEST (Bulawayo, final day): Zim-tabus draw with Pakistan.

had shifted to within the cap, but Wigan are questioning the system.

With the backing of the millionaire Dave Whelan, they have strengthened their squad and have signed one of the to be between 60 and 70 per game's higgest names, Wendell Sailor, on a £500,000 con-The club's chairman, Mike

The League's spokesman, Pe- Nolan, has warned that, if they ter Rowe, said clubs would be are prevented from rewarding they are spending more than able to recoup the funds if they their players bandsomely, sev-

joined Birmingham earlier this year. Guinan has made only two full ap-pearances for Forest this season.

pearances for Forest this season.
The Crewe midfielder Gareth Whalley has been called up to the Republic of treland squad for Wednesday's friendly against the Czech Republic in Olomouc. The 24-year-cld qualifies for the Irish as his mother was bom in Dublin.
NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Rearranged Returnes: The 31 Mar: Oldham v Bristol City from 8 Mari, The 21 Apr: Layton Orient v Southorpe (from 3 Jan). The 31 Mar: Darlington v Strewebury from 10 Mar). Fri 10 Apr: Craritor v Receing fram) from 11 Apr. The 28 Apr: Tranners v Stretfield Util (from 7 Mar). Postponed fibures: Set 4 Apr: Crewe v Sheffield Util Sat 18 Apr: Carlisle v Girmsby; Wathord v Bournsmouth. FA Carling Prendenship: Postponed fibures: Sun 5 Apr: Liverpool v Areanal.

Jack Nicklaus has accepted a special

exemption, offered on Monday, to play in the US Open and extend his se-quence of successive majors to 145.

This year's Chemapol Czech Open, one of the European Tour's richest tour-naments, has been cancelled at the

Golf

The League yesterday defended its policy. "Clubs have been consulted at every stage and we are confident that we have a mandate." Rowe said.

is a sliding scale of punishments for exceeding the cap. The money will be confiscated permanently if etubs cannot put their affairs in order by the end

first of the Inter-Services games at RAF Crewe have signed the Nottingham Forest striker Steve Guinan on a month's loen. They have been look-ing for a striker since Dele Adebota Halton yesterday. INTER-SERVICES TOURNAMENT (RAF

Dunbar Premiership victory over title contenders Newcastle last Saturday. The former Wigan rugby league player will miss Richmond's Premiership games egainet Leicester on 28 March and Bristol a fortnight later, in addition to Wales' final Pive Nations Championship facture with France on 5 April. Hallon): First Day: Mer: RAF 1 Army 3 U-23: RAF 5 Army 5. Veterana: RAF 5 Army 3. Women: Royal Navy 0 Army 5. NHL: Chicago 5 Buffalo 3; Detroit 4 Ed-monton 3; Vancouver 4 Flonda 2; Dallas 4 Los Angeles 3.

Pools news

LITTLEWOODS: Trable chance: 22pts \$438445; 22 534240; 21 52875; 20 5340, half time result: 24pts (mar) \$1475; 20 5340, half time result: 24pts (mar) \$1472300. Four draws: 2330 Nine house: 5555. Five sways: 530.55 (pict on four). VERNORS: Trable Chance: 22 pts \$42,654.25; 22 \$204; 21 \$29.95. Premier 10; \$43.25. March: Truble chance 25pts 52,055, 22 (2880, 21 \$400, 20 \$100, Four draws: 2940, 5240, 52 (2880, 21 \$400, 20 \$100, Four draws: 2940, 5951 fourstraws: 2940, 5951 fourstraws: 5940, 5951 fourstraws: 5940, 5951 fourstraws: 5950, All draws trains chance from 11 draws): 23 (2505, 22 \$46, Fair five: \$4070, Lucky rusmbert: 9 8 7 34 28 16.

Richmond yesterday suspended their Wales and British Lions forward, Scott Quinnell, for four matches, Quinnell, the No B, who has also been fined, was sent off by English referse Ed Morri-son during Richmond's 30-17 Allied

TODAY'S NUMBER

sive years for which Essex have made a profit. The county announced a surplus of £24,032 vesterday, £40,000 down on lest year, the figures for which included capital gains on sale of investments. Subscriptions from 7,402 members was £20,000 higher at £341,060, while proceeds from matches increased by

The number of succes-

Ship Intture with France on 5 April.
ENGLAND A SQUAD (v Scotland A, Editobrugh, tossorrow); Backe: C Catling (Gos).
J Lowsey (Bristo). 8 Johnson (Gos). 0
Cirapmen (Richmond). M Allen (Northampton). N Greensbock (Vispo), M Steen (Norcestid, R Butternd (Berl). P Richards (London
Irish). C Harrison (Orrel). Forwards: 1)
Churler (Samcens). M Regam (Bath). V
Uboqu (Bath). O Bernee (Newcastel). N Medbatt (Bath). M Comment (Clos). R Holler (Gos).
C Olifica (Pichmond). R Jentima (Verteques).
P Sanderson (Sale). R Winsters (Bedford). S
Clarice (Richmond). Gr.

at Wembley

(5-8); Akinoshu (6-9) bt Kotomozuma (4-7), Mi-tolzum (7-4) bt Tamakazuga (5-9); Manatolu-i (7-4) bt Coloro (6-5); Ogmishi (6-5) bt Asamowska (6-5); Higonoum (8-7) bt Terao (3-6); Aogyama (8-9) bt Takatonik (4-7); Technom-ada (5-6) bt Alencashma (6-5), Gury (3-6) bt Shikishima (2-9), Chryotokia (7-4) bt Kao (6-S); Mizoyama (7-4) bt Kotomokika (4-7); Musashimaru (7-4) bt Tochnowska (4-7); Wakanohama (1-0) bt Tochnowska (4-7); Takamorum (7-6) bt Wakarupo (3-8). Akstono (9-2) bt Kotomowsko (5-8). Ten his

Greg Rusedski, the British No 1, has
been seeded fifth for the Lipton
Championships at Key Biscayne in
Florida, starting today. The top eight
men's seedings follow the world ranklings for the tournament which boasts
the biggest entry outside the Grand
Stam events. Rusedski rose one place
after reaching the final of the
Newsweek Champions' Cup in Indian
Wells, California, last week.

Win tickets to the Coca-Cola Cup final

Middlesbrough will be seeking revenge for their defeat in last season's FA Cup final when they meet Chelsea again at Wembley in the Coca-Cola Cup final on 29 March. Can Bryan Robson's team turn the tables on Gianluca Viaili's men?

The Information Service is offering a pair of upper grandstand seats plus refreshments for one of English football's great showpiece occasions. To win the prize call 0930-563442 and leave your answer to the following

Which Middlesbrough player has just won a recall to Glenn Hoddle's England squad?

Lines close at midnight tonight. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Winners will be notified tomorrow. Please make sure you leave a daytime telephone number

Sporting Digest

Athletics

The Polish city of Bydgoszcz will stage the first world Under-18 cham-pionships next year Bydgoszcz, which hosted the 1979 European junior championships, was chosen by the in-ternational Amateur Athletic Federa-tion on the first day of a two-day council meeting yesterday in Mar-

NESA: Nicetta 17 Toronto 105; Denver 90 Washington 89; New York 100 Philadelphia 96; Orientio 92 Vancouver 92; Chicago 90 Indiana 84; Dallas 99 Boston 93; Houston 96 Miwsukse 91; Phoenix 107 Secramento BC; Clavelgand 96 Portland 92; LA Cippers 107 Golden State 102.

Kelly Offver will defend his World Box-ing Organisation Inter-Continental 739-455.

title at Bethnel Green's York Hall on Sat-urday. The Uncoin cruteerweight will meet America's Brian Laspada in a re-vised main event on Frank Warren's bill Laspada, a former North Ameri-can amateur champion, comes with a professional record of 28 wins, six losses and two draws. Also on the bill is the unbeaten Bricton heavyweight Danny Williams, who will face Jamaicas

Billiards

Billiards
STRACHAN BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP (Chesterfield) First round: E
Hughes (Ir) bit I Williamson (Eng.) 578-326;
S Agarwei (ind) bit Melahmi (ind) 598-556;
C Shutt (Eng.) bit I Melli (ind) 785-350; O
Causier (Eng.) bit M Kottmir (ind) 634-568;
M Wildman (Eng.) bit A Polityem (Rus.) 491389; O Sneddon (Sco) bit M Ferreira (Ind)
730-455

WOMEN'S HOME INTERNATIONAL TH-DOOR CHAMPIONSHIP (Durington): Eng-land by Wales 156-78 (Eng sleps fise): M Steele by Morris 22-8; J Poylence by 8 Mor-gan 19-44; M Price by M Termer 27-10; N Shaw by M Simmonds 32-9; a Abderson by II Row-lenda 29-9; D Hankin by G Miles 21-17.

Cricket
A fifth-wicket century stand between Youse's Youhena and Moin Khan enabled Pakistan to salvage a draw against Zimbebwe on the final day of the first feet in Buildweyo. The two put on 110 in five minutes short of three hours to guide Pakistan to safety at 258 for 6 in their second innings. Youhena scoring 64 and Khan 97 With Zimbabwe needing four wickets and Pakistan another 113 runs to win with only 73 overs remaking, the captains

SNOW REPORTS

AROUND THE RESORTS Ski Hotline

Latest snow and weather reports from 200+ resorts in Europe and North America. Voice reports 0891 333 110 + code

For a full list of all ski codes by voice or fex dfel 0990 100 843

At a glance to snow conditions at

Ski Snapshot

over 200 resorts world-wide 0897 500 601 in association with EWSTEL

ANDORRA 100% 12.3 States of the Doctor AUSTRIA Fax reports 0897 500 086 + code BULGARIA CANADA 90 205 Firm paded snow Labor Louise .. FRANCE Best sking at altitude ITALY 100% 11.3 NORWAY Good firm packed snow 90% SPAIN Serra NevadaSushy lower down after midday 90% SWITZERLAND UNITED STATES Copper Mili-Snow Reports supplied by Ski Hotline Calls to 0891 numbers cost 50p/min: to 08975 numbers £1/min at all times. Helpline 0990 E3 345

Area Lasz Lwr Upp open show on on

rious Achilles injury but hopes to be fit for the first chempionship match against Durham on 17 April. Drugs in sport Lawyers for six sports officials accused of involvement in East Germeny's doping programme asked a court in Berlin yesterday to throw out Today's fixtures Football 7.45 unless stated EUROPEAN CUP WHOLERS' CUP QUARTER PRIVAL SECOND-LEGS CHAIRTER-FINAL SECOND-LESS
Chaless (2) v Real Boils (2)
Lee Moscow (0) v AEK Alfrens (0) (4.0)—
VIB Studgart (1) v Stevis Progue (1,720)
VIONEZO (9) v Rode (2) Kericade (1)—
RYMAN LEAGUE Put Members' Cup fourth
round: Cerstation v Majdenhead (720).
AVON RESURANCE COMERNATION Flat Division: Norwich City v Charlton Athletic
(720).

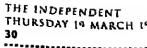
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Fifth round: Eventon v loswich Town (70).

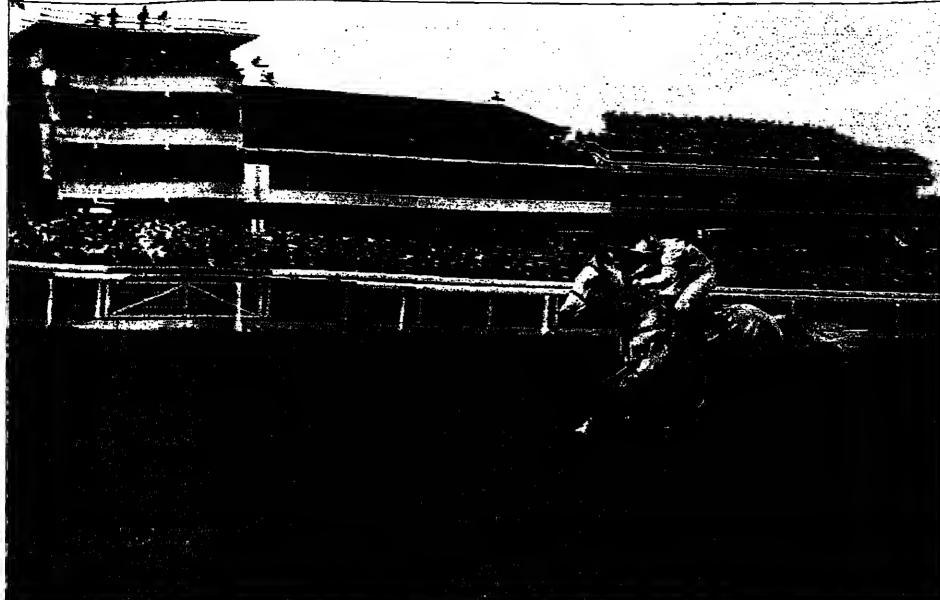
Rugby Union
CLUB MATCH: Kello v Langholm (7.5). Basketbal!

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: London Leopards v Crystal Palace (730). Other sports BOWLS: Warmen's British Championships (Destingtion).

request of the sponsors because of flood-related diseasers in the Czech Republic last summer. The £300,000 lournement's slot on the schedule, from 6 to 9 August, could well now go to the German Open at a venue to be Guy Fordham, who England badly need for their World Cup campaign in May but will be missing because of his final medical exams, was outstanding as the Army beat the RAF 3-1 in the

£19,044 to £200,813.





Hill of dreams: One Man conquers his aversion to Cheltenham's uphill finish as he comes home alone in yesterday's Queen Mother Champion Chase

Photograph: Peter Jay

Giant step for Man on a mission

menu at Cheltenham vesterday. but great dollops of it were being served up in the winners' enclosure, First, that great big teddy bear One Man strolled up the hill to rout the best two-mile specialists either side of the Irish Sea, bringing a smile as broad as the Cumbrian hills to the face of his trainer, Gordon Richards, confined to barracks at his Grevstoke base, No sooner had the Queen curriculum vitae.

Mother presented the £94,000 prize to One Man's connections and ridden off in her golf huggy than the winners' berth was filled by the most infamous hurse in raciog. Top Cccs, star all along. Twice a failure in the of Court 13, silent witness in the Gold Cup, he returned to a discelebrated case of the Sporting tance not travelled since his injury to his best friend, Tony we could keep it up," Harding life v the Ramsdens. The press novice hurdling days and tri- Dobbin, brought him a phone said. "But I gave him a little from waited for the Channel 4 interview with scarcely dis- ly reserved for the King George guised relish: "Tell us a little on Boxing Day. "He is a really about this horse, Mrs Ramsden..." "Well, Derek ... " One Man left emotions scat-

tered across Cleeve Hill. This is the horse who was scheduled to fill the public vacuum left by the retirement of Desert Orchid all those years ago only to suffer the disdain of the cognoscenti and

HUMBLE pic was not on the Andrew Longmore samples the highs and blows of the Festival where two famous horses let their talent do the talking

> the scorn of impecunious pun- finish as he returned on the wellters. A park course champion, he beaten Irish challenger, Klairon was labelled, but not Prestbury Park. Unbeatable round the flat me about One Man," the foracres of Kempton, heartless up mer champion had said in the the Cheltenham hill. "A question morning. "We've had some no one can really answer," Nicky Richards, son of the trainer, said of the gaping hole in One Man's One Man provided his own est day of his riding career and,

emphatic answer yesterday. There was oo Cheltenham voodoo nor lack of guts. He had been entered in the wrong race umphed with a swagger usualhigh-class horse," added Richards. "We always knew he'd come back and win good races."

One of the doubters had to watch the procession from an uncomfortable distance. You could have forgiven Richard Dunwoody the sideways glance he gave the video rerun of the

Roofer

required.

Apply Cheltenham

racecourse.

(Ireland's Dorans Pride: 11/4.)

\$0990 624 624

TOTE CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP

3m. 21/d Cheltenham 3.15pm. Live on CH4

E/W one-quarter the odds a place 1.2.3.

ELITE RACING CLUB TRIUMPH HUROLE

2m. 1f Chohenham 2.00pm, Live on CH4.

25/1 Challenger du Luc

33/1 Simply Dashing 66/1 Senor El Batrutti

56/1 Strath Royal

40/1 Scoss

50/1 Robbo

50/1 Kris Green

50/1 Real Estate

GB/1 Touch Act

100/1 Swing West

150/1 Copper Shell

6671 Another Night

66/1 Tyrolean Dream

150/1 Wontcostalotbut

8671 Running de Censy

25/1 Cool Dawn

11/4 Dorans Pride

9/1 Rough Quest

12/1 Addington Boy 12/1 Go Ballistic

16/1 Strong Promise

25/1 Barton Bank

9/2 Zafarabad

5/1 Darapour

10/1 Nomadie

11/1 City Hall

14/1 Upgrade

16/1 Rainwatch

20/1 Snow Dragon

7/1 Buddy Marvel

7/1 Rainbow Frontier

12/1 Iron County Xmas

1471 The French Furze

25/1 Supply And Demand 150/1 Shalaal

the book CIV probabilist. College most be 15 or gags Laddrages with

These prices may have changed shop this aguspaper was printed. For the very latest prices, page Lasbrokes Toletest 506/6 (Cb4).

Ladbrokes

For the Festival, Lachrokes are favourite.

10/1 Suny Bay

7/Z See More Business

Davis, "Nothing would surprise great times together." In the winners' enclosure, Brian Harding barely had enough breath to explain the twists and turns which had led him to the great-

in the way of National Hunt rac-

ing, to the swift erasure of the

darkest year of his life. Resigned to watching the call at Sedgefield on Tuesday, a gruff message from Gordon Richards - "don't let me down, will you" - and an armchair ride with a difference. For most of last year, Harding was compulsorily laid off by the Jockey Club having suffered severe concussioo in a fall. His time had been speot "doing his two", in racing parlance, on cold mornings at

PEOPLE who have never

risked anything on a horse -

and lost, and cursed, and

shouldered back through the

milling throng to bet the next

race - will never understand

what it is that makes the sport

us are in the process of selec-

tion, usually serving up our

worldly goods in failed at-

tempts at inflicting superficial

wounds on the bookmaking

fraternity, racing isn't just

about cashing a bet or (most

commonly in my case) tearing

McManus is thought to have

taken £500,000 out of the ring

when his colours were carried

home brilliantly by Istabraq in

the Champion Hurdle on

Tuesday. But, in the main, any-

body who supposes that bet-

ting on horses can be made to

pay on a regular basis should

check the cost of storing their

hreed love to suffer. It seems

that they are never happier

unless they are miserable -

shiny in the seat and tissue-

thin in the sole, unable to find

a winner to back, stony broke

and sinking hopelessly deep-

A celebrated American

night-club performer, the late

Joe E Lewis, built an act

around his gambling addiction.

ет into debt.

Some specimens of the

The fêted Irish punter J P

up a ticket.

Uneducated as many of

so fascinating, so exciting.

out One Man, imagining a day like yesterday. "Gordon stood by him like a father," Michael Caulfield, head of the Jockeys' Association, said. The story of the race is sim-

ply told. From the tape, One

Man and Ask Tom turned a

champions' field into a private duel. For half a circuit, they matched thrilling strides until the favourite broke, hampered by an "interrupted preparatioo" according to Tom Tate, his trainer, leaving One Man to tackle the Another eloquent day for the bill alone. "We were going a right race at home oo television, an gallop and I wondered how long bookmakers will be left speechbreather going up the hill and on a breathtaking Festival day wheo he quickened again, I should belong to a detached obthought, If they pass me, they'll server of the hig race, Forced to be doing well here.' Or Royal retire from the saddle after a car came closest, but four lengths crash, Francie Woods had to was still a handsome response to the critics. Further back in fifth dock instead of partnering Kla-Flagship, who will now enjoy a

well-deserved retirement. Dunwoody's moment was easily have meant the whole, Richards's yard and, as he rode not long delayed. But the cheers tortuous, ritual of the Festival.

Sunk punters swept up

in the thrill of winning

into the audience and shout,

"A thousand bucks for props".

great world heavyweight

once prompted to imagine

the riches that would have

come his way in the modern

said wearily, "just bigger bets."

Failure to observe this fun-

the Arkle with Champleve

Boxer I was put off by con-

Coming on stage to a cry of did victory and the sentiment development would have

"Post Time", he would scatter that surrounded it made up for found the sight thrilling.

champion, Joe Louis, was O'Brien.

which greeted a handsome victory by Florida Pearl in the Royal & SunAlliance Chase must have resembled a dirge for the bookmakers. Istabraq, Unsinkable Boxer on St Patrick's Day; French Holly, a deeply impres sive winner of the Royal & Sun Alliance Hurdle, and Floriworst days I've ever known at Cheltenham," Victor Chandler, one of the biggest rails bookmakers, said oo the opening night, which perhaps explains the niggardly 8-1 offered on the Willie Mullins-trained Florida Pearl for the 1999 Gold Cup.

less as well as penniless. The final thought, however, watch the big screen by the padplace came the valiant Viking iroo Davis. "I just felt Flagship, who will now enjoy a desperate," he said. He was talking about the race, but he could

the financial disappointments.

Not since Dawn Run's hero-

ic triumph in the 1986 Gold

Cup has there been such cel-

ebrations at Prestbury Park,

more moist eyes in the un-

take kindly to identification,

was on Istabraq at odds better considerably than the 3-1

starting price, but his anxiety

ily explained by an emotional

attachment to the borse's con-

talented young trainer, Aidan

This touches on an aspect

of racing that seldom registers

with the general public. Think-

cess, the sight of Jonjo O'Neill

Similar expressions of ad-

was nothing in the race that

One thought was that even

people who deem an interest

A friend, who would not

saddling enclosure.

two handfuls of losing tickets before the race was just as eas-

Lewis' near namesake, the nections, especially its hugely

era. "Just bigger bets." he ing back to Dawn Run's suc-

players can get no more valu- tenham's punishing hill, I re-

able advice than to steer clear member the joy expressed by

of unreliable witnesses (jock- a man whose bet was sunk.

eys figure prominently in this "What a performance," he

category) and stick with the bellowed, pounding my back

plan they set out with, ignor- in excitement, "what a bloody

damental rule led to my down- miration came from losing

fall on Tuesday when seeking punters oo Tuesday when

winners to go with a tickle at Charlie Swan pressed the but-

Istabraq that turned out hap- ton taking Istabraq clear to win

pily. From being firm in the be- by I2 lengths and justify

tief that Martin Pipe would win O'Brien's belief that there

and the last with Unsinkable could live with the favourite.

However, Istabraq's splen- in racing evidence of arrested

ing all subsequent information. performance".

Big bets or small, horse driving a brave mare up Chel-

talking horses today and the

Another nice little earner by **Top Cees**

By Greg Wood

da Pearl yesterday. "One of the AS SOMEONE pointed out afterwards, the biggest surprise about the success of Top Cees in the Coral Cup Handicap Hurdle at Cheltenham yesterday was that the horse at the head of the weights, Allegation, did not finish second. Just a few weeks ago, Top Cees was the focus of a dramatic libel action in the High Court, during which Derek Thompson, the Channel. 4 presenter, claimed that Kieren Pallon, the champioo Flat jockey, had admitted stopping Top Cees in a race at Newmarket in 1995. Yesterday, the horse re-

claimed his place in the head-

lines, while the Channel 4 crew

kept their distance. The libel action, which fascinated the racing world for almost three weeks in February, ended in victory for Fallon, Lynda Ramsden, Top Cees' trainer, and her husband, Jack. They had sued the Sporting Life over an allegation that they had been "cheating" when the horse finished fifth in the Swaffham Handicap at Newmarket in 1995. The claim was published following Top Cees* easy win in the Chester Cup, a few weeks after the Swaffham. They won their case, and were awarded a total of almost

£200,000 in damages... As a result, Top Cees is possibly the most famous horse in training, though not, it would seem, the most popular. There were boos sprinkled amid the applause as the horse returned to the unsaddling enclosure, and his reception was, by Festival standards, a muted one. Top Cees started at 11-1, although the Tote paid almost 17-1.

The Ramsdens were understandably delighted with the success, for which Barry Fenton, his jockey, deserves much credit. Fenton was towards the rear for most of the race, hut timed his challenge to perfection, hitting the front as they jumped the fi-

"Top Cees is the love of my life after Jack," Lynda Ramsden said. "He is such a comical character. We only have two jumpers, so it is great for a Flat trainer to be able to take on the best National Hunt trainers."

Jack Ramsden, who is well known for his substantial and successful raids on the betting ring, said that he had had "a little bit" on Top Cees, but "I just wanted to see him do it. He is one of the family and he's bee a good earner in many ways."

Channel 4 television, severai of whose employees gave evidence in the libel trial, did not request an interview with the winner's connections.

Top Cees is not expected to run over hurdles again this season and may now attempt to win the Chester Cup for a third time at the course's big May meeting.

3.15 CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP (Grade 1) (CLASS A) £225,000 added 3m 2f 110yds £130,500

3 22254 CHALLENGER DU LUC (14) (C) (SIF) _______ C Mande Owner: D A Johnson Tasken: M Pipe Byo 12st.

Forme: Raind off fourth to Super Recitos in Recing Post Handcap Cristee at Kernpion (Sm. good to fam), freefounty every channe when fell four in John Ball Chans won by Callisce Bay at Winsanton (2mm), good to sorth.

Sutamatry: Televised 21/no cheese, but is notectous for finding nothing under pressure when the chips are down and element to the day this distance when well begins in this state last year. Best overhooked.

Going, V Dissesson X Rating 238

5 2014-P COULDN'T BE BETTER (63) (C) (P) Tryo Yast LD Gallaghav Owner: R A 3 Whitle Trainer: C Brooks
Form: Led from third faces until efter 19th, soon westerned and pulled up two out bethind fiver handste and Sesain Royal (23th worse) in Moniton Handing Charte at Maineting Strift and;
Suppress; Smart charter who won the valuable Thyseles Handicap Charte at Govern Park last season. Pulled up only run this term, but has conditions to ask, impressed in procedures galop last Setunday and might reach the feares. Goling of Distance of Resting 1935.

nively of Wincomion lest line out. Proven over this course and distance an ailed by the prevailing fast ground, he looks an interesting each-very bet, Going & Distance & Rading \$22

9 20455 INDIAN TRACKRESS (SE) (SE) Byo 15st. J. Lower
Cover. Jos & Joenne Richards Trainer: M Pice
Finest: Headway 10th lance, ridden three out and soon besten when little 27
to General Wolle in Peers March Limited Handlosp Cress & Haydock (Sm.,
act); 30 behind Shatth Howal and 11 behind Shapith Peers (Sm.) Samensky: Reir handlosp chases on his day at enound Sm., but in unproven on
last going, has disappointed in recent oblings is unproven at this disappose
screen by far his tooghest entigeness yet today. No chance.

Going ? Distance ? Resting 1727

by the distance and going, Might be placed.

Going & Distance & Rating 258

12 211P35 SENOR EL BETRUTTI (26) (C) 6yo 12st _____ C Llowellyn
Owner; Genard Nock Trabper; Mrs S Nock

cheby does not stay this distance. Can be salely disco Going of Distance of Parting 192

impress in a racecourse galop on Saturday and looks Going & Distance & Reting 147

BETTING: 11-4 Dorane Pcids, 7-2 See More Businese, 10-1 Cyborgo, Rough Guest, Sun 12-1 Addington Boy, Strong Pronise, 20-1 Go Beffisic, 25-1 Challenger De Luc, Cool 33-1 Burton Bank, 40-1 Condeth Be Better, 50-1 Seron El Betrutti, Shrapiy Dushing, 66-1 1007, 16-12-1. 1997: Mr Muligen Syo 12st A P McCoy 20-1 (N Chance) 14 ran

Compiled by lan Davies

ALL COURSES RESULTS

0891 261 970

1968 89 90 97 92 93 94 95

INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS CHELTENHAM 971 981 972 982

Big race field

4 -ORLP COOL DAWN (40) (8F) Toyo 12st _______A Thornton Owner: The Honourable Man Dido Harding Trainer: R Alter Force: Pulled up three out behind Court Melody in Agle Diamond Limited Harding Creek at Sandown (Smittlyths, good). Restloutly beat Orseel Led by 28 in CK Soil Hardingo Creek at Assot (Smittlyde, good in soft). Sommers: Useful handings cheek at Assot (Smittlyde, good in soft). Sommers: Useful handings cheek; who steps well and goes on the ground. Dut was very disappointing last season and will have a improve substantially on enrything he has actived so far if he is to play a prominent role today. Golgs of Distance I/ Rading 748.

Fours: 67/4 that is Dublin Flyer in Micheel Page Friennet Handicap Chaese a Marwick (2m4110)dc, good), previously 171 firstle One Man, 25 behind Strong Promilee in Cornet, And Sony Classe at geoot (2m5110)dc, good), Businamy: Smart Improllege Classes of Journal 27/41, who laves this covere and pon two big succes here in the automn. Has lost by form of late, however, and produced the cost time this defense. The sould be successful.

15 521-22 STRONG PROMISE (21) (C) (BF) 7yo 12st......N Williamson Owner G Hubbard Trainer: G Hubbard To beard in Jun Food Fourse Williamson Cariffroyds, good to family Productly Second to One Men with Sener B Beard 19 bear in Jun Food to family Second 19 bear in Jun Food Second 19 bear in 19 bear in Jun Food Second 19 bear in 19 be

16 12-14 SURY BAY (BC) (U) (BF) Byo 12st — G Brackey
Owner: Uplands Blookslock Trainer: C Brooks
Form: 27 fourth to See More Business in King George VI Chase at Kampbri Car, stiff, producity best Barbin Bank (Bib botter) by 13 in Hermany
Cognic Gold Cup Handlero Chase at Nestony (Sm2110)cts, good to edit,
Sunamey: Smart staying chaser but mady holds his born for long, run a dimal and land land and at his best form has been on edit ground Failed
in home and a suscensing emission and holds and folial worth produced.

Winner's place in betting: 0 1 0 0 0 2J 3 1 Starting prices: 10-1 6-2 100-1 16-1 25-1 8-1 7-1 100-30 9-2 20-1 10 10 9 8 10 8 9 9 7 9 rate or loss in Cl survey Envoyables -52.12 Servey Secondos (as) restainings of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd is lest race: 90% Shortest-priced wigner: Desert Orchid 5-2 (1999) Longest-priced winner: Norton's Coin 100-1 (1990) Top trainer: No trainer has won this race more than once in the pest 10 years Top jackey. No jackey has won this race more than once in the past 10 years

Gold Cup winners 1995: Master Oxts N Williamson 199-30 1994: The Fellow A Kondrat 7-1 1997: Cool Ground A Magaire 25-1 1991: Garrison Severmah M Pleman 16-1 1990: Nortons Colts .. G McCourt 100-1 1989; Desort Orchid ... 5 Sherwood 5-2 LINGFIELD 1988: Charter Party., R Durmoody 10-1 973 983

1986: Dawn Rom ______]] O'Note 15-8

حكنا من الاجل

THERE is promise of a fu heart-rending Irish story Cheltenham winners (sure this afternoon. While day and Islabraq's Chan Hurdle was as much alwa deceased John Durkan a of the living connection. rans Pride in the Gold C also associated with a man will never again take an A part in the borse's career

Shane Broderick use ride Dorans Pride with bole and success until it all end Fairyhouse last Easter, Ri a horse called Another D ly, Broderick was fired int earth so seriously that his s was irreparably damaged. I now confined to a wheeld Dorans Pride has had di ful moments of his own. In

the nine-year-old was all ferried into another world v ravaged by an attack of col jug-of-war length of intewas removed from his gut. Dorans Pride is now ha ly restored and, each time wins a race, the name of B erick is invoked. If the ches

captures the Blue Riband m of the glory will be funnelled wards his former partner. his chance is obvious.

Dorans Pride is nireau Festival winner. He won

Cheltenham

2.00 Buddy Marvel 2.35 Buckhouse Boy (nb) 3.15 Go Ballistic 3.55 FANTUS (nap)

GOING: Good. Bristol, Birminghem and London, Pad • LEADING FESTIVAL TRAINERS; cess retio of 67%; D Nicholson 7 in 2 from 8 (25%). • LEADING FESTIVAL JOCKEYS: R

62 (97%); N Williamson 5 from 32 (FAVOURITES: 209 wins in 531 ra BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Root Est

2.00 ELITE RACING CLL 1) (CLASS A) £45, SOZI - AMOTHER NIGHT (S) (D) (Sun HIPT BUDDY MARVEL (19) (D) (D -25-11 CTY JALL (40) (D) July R F K 5P23 COPPER SHELL (40) (Galleylo 21 DARAPOUR (SS) (LP McMarus 121 . IRON COUNTY JONAS (18) (Iro

PISTS UPGRADE (27) (D) (M Archer &

23 tri "Zaparabao (54) (CD) (Mrs Etal 24 1922 Amerise (96) (D) (P Leke, H Leke 25 18. Vent D'Aout (77) (D) (89) (En 26 U3823 Wontcostaloteut (21) (Wo BETTING: 4-1 Zellarabad, 8-1 Derapour, 9-1 dy Marcel, City Hall, Homadic, 14-1 Reimer 25-1 Reel Eslate, Supply And Demand, 50-1997: Operando Court 4 tt C N Williamson

1997: Countercha Court 4 ti C N Wilkermann

ZAFARABAD looks in a different leagu
with wins at Kempton, on this course a
watch (two wins in the much at Newbou
rates him up thate with his very best he
caster and Kempton, but the feeling is of
The French Fluzze can go really well on
Tiony McCoy aboard Ralabow Frontie
four wins for Aden O'Enten in the much of
Euros Twentid to have in November on four wins for Addrn Charlen in the Truck - s Furze trotted up here in November and er a Feethel winner. Richard Dunwoody diers and Nopardic fools sure to be there aboust. Developing and Charlie Swan wi Leopangiswer on his second hurdles at second from County Xmass, who meets

6

2.35 BONUSPRINT STAY

9 (Till: SPLEMOD THYNE (28) (J Galvaro BETTING: 74Padaya Ratura, 4-1 Ocean Havel did Tinyan, 10-1 Consumotoke Court, 14-1 Prin 1997: Kersit? 11 10 J Outcome 20-1 (Mass H You FOR

PADDY'S BETURN is the favourity - POR Quarters of a length by Ocean Hawk in a Prench Hotija win yesterday, Paddy a Resum house it is there eller the third to Karshi in below form when their in bilinters. Witness

Hexham HYPERION

2.25 Centaur Express 3.00 Snip Storm Call 4.15 Redsway 4.50 5.25 What Jim Wants 5_20 Yet par, throat, CONY, Soft Party Indians, CONY, Soft (*sury in planes).

© Left-hand, catheling course, Rucks of SONY, SOft CAR, A ADMINISTRATION CARS. Further, 126 (SONY, 19 Manuary P. Handley, C. Cony, R. Garrier, 19 T. (NET %).

Reset 12-67 (SONY, R. Garrier, 19-77 (NET %).

225 THREE PEES IN A POD NO CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 2m 1

2010-00 (61-00-0) - 1-00-00 (61-00-00) - 1-00-000 (61-00-00

Lingfield HYPERION

50 Don't Drop Bombs 2.20 Ks Max 4.05 Palacegate Touch Max 4.05 Palacegate Touch Mac Courier 5.15 Herr Trigger mid: Sanctural STALLS: IV, by - contacts; rest

AMATEUR RIDERS HAND (CLASS F) £2,500 added DILED TO HE (15 C) 5 II 7 Mr. J Translite MICHOE VERTICEE (200) 5 II 6 ... Mr K San REMAIN REEL (200) (200) 7 II 3 ... May J May

- 1910年(4年 8 10 12 _____ Dr 人 10mb - 1910年(21) 4 10 8 ____ Mr A Udder

A Septimin Statute of an executor rest responsibility for a printe. Septimin 1988: Low in equipment and ability com-rest control of the Benchmark Pt. Care PARIX-Septimin Septimin 1989 (2015). A 1993 Septimin 1996 (1974). S Wellmordt 50-3 (1993) Paris Time: Septim (1993). Buchanding p

Pride to ride on wave of emotion

THERE is promise of a further heart-rending Irish story in the Cheltenham wioners' eoclosure this afternoon. While Tuesday and Istabraq's Champioo Hurdle was as much about the of the living connections, Dorans Pride in the Gold Cup is also associated with a man who will oever again take an active Hourigan. The trainer might be part in the horse's career.

ride Dorans Pride with boldness and success until it all coded at Fairyhouse last Easter. Riding a horse called Another Deadly, Broderick was fired into the earth so seriously that his spine was irreparably damaged. He is now confined to a wheelchair.

Dorans Pride has had dreadful moments of his own. In 1996 the nine-year-old was almost ferried into another world when ravaged by an attack of colic. A was removed from his gut.

Dorans Pride is now happily restored and, each time he wins a race, the name of Brodwards his former partner. And

his chance is obvious.

Richard Edmondson expects a casualty of the sport to be given a golden tribute today

also for the formidable Michael oo the small side, but he has a Shane Broderick used to pugilistic look about him and if

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Dorans Pride (Cheltenham 3.15) NB: Upgrade (Cheltenham 2.00)

you tried to be nasty he'd probably make a mess of your pelvis. Hourigao has developed Dorans Pride into one of the most potent weapons in these islands. He was third in the Gold tug of-war length of intestine Cup last year when still a novice and now attempts to become only the second Irish winner of

the race since 1986. There will certainly be no erick is invoked. If the chestnut shortage of vocal encouragecaptures the Blue Riband much meot. The gelding is owned by of the glory will be funnelled to- Tom Doran, one of 14 children, most of whom will gather at Prestbury Park today. Doran is Dorans Pride is already a now ao affluent building con-Festival winner. He won the tractor in London, though he twice by Dorans Pride.

Stayers' Hurdle of 1995 wheo does oot let money and ownridden by a 20-year-old Brod- ership of a great horse make his trainer, Martin Pipe, to deceased Joho Durkan as any erick having his first ride since him too aloof. At weekeods he have since improved greatly he losing his apprentice allowance. can be found pulling pints at the has a chance, though, again, the It was a first Festival winner hotel owned by his girlfriend's going is against him. family. Today the Dorans will all be pulling for one horse.

The Irish horse's chance is hardly compromised by the ground. The New Course will alconvenience Dorans Pride as National preparation race. much as several rivals.

George VI Chase and the Gold others include Arkle and Desert run into a place at long odds. Orchid, a special place is glit-

tering in the mountains for him. betting slip there can be only The information from his one selection. It is the ooe camp is that Timmy Murphy will ride the horse fairly close to the cheering, the one that will swirt pace. Connections believe See together both joy and a certain More Business has improved since last seasoo and indeed he this Festival we are going to witoeeds to have done. During the ness a greatly poignant moment. last campaign he was beaten DORANS PRIDE (nap 3.15) is

See More Business's latest victory was in this setting in January's Pillar Chase, when he had Cyborgo as his pearest oursuer. As that runner-up is thought by

Charlie Brooks is doubly represented, but the best of the pair may not be the most obvious. Sury Bay is yet another who would not choose this gomost certainly ride good when ing and he has also been rushed the smoke comes out of the re- to get here. The Gold Cup volver today, but this will oot in- may transpire to be his Graod

Couldnt Be Better worked The principal one, See More well with his stablemate re-Business, would certainly like cently and he is one, at least, cermore juice underfoot. He is tain to enjoy the puffs of smoke aiming to become only the sixth thrown op from the drying horse to win both the King grass. As he was third in this contest two years ago to Impe-Cup in the same season. As the rial Call, he has credentials to

For the win portion of the which will induce the greatest sadness. For the second time about to win the Gold Cup.



See More Business: Pride's rival Photograph: Robert Hallam

at Doncester. A 4b pull should make all the difference. The weights going up 10b overnight have done Tidebrook more favours then most and he is just 3b off the minimum, which includes a puny 3b penelty for his demolhlen job at Milleter Diddy on soft ground at Newbury 13 days ago. The progress he has made since fidding about in small races at Parth Uttosters last back-and is little short at phenomenal and he is 1th better in here compand to future handicape.

-	#60 E)	Marie Carrieda	I I DEDRUK
	5.05	CATHCART CHALLENGE CUP CHASE (CLASS added 2m 5i	B) £45,000
1	278	MULLIGAN (24) (D) (Lady Hersle) D Netholson 8 ft 7	- A Microsite
2	/2-tm	CALLING WILD (10) (U) Phirt & Co Ltd) P Nichole 8 11 8	T J Marotor
3		DR LEUMT (40) (Pales Errery) P Hobbs 7 11 3	
4	DP-tfs	JACK DOYLE (40) (CD) (Drain Logistics) N Twisten-Davies 7 11 5	C Limeter
5	3212-1	LIVELY KONGGIT (131) (D) (A D Weller) J GRibert 8 To 3	L Accel
6	42485	SLAHLER (SIX (CD) (English Badminton Partnership) N Teiston-Dueles 8 t	3C Manda
7	/12-4	CEAN (ST) (Lord Hartington) Mass 1; Kright 8 11 0	C Bradley
8	10-111	CELESTIAL CHOSE (40) (D) pare Carolin Sylvan) J L Byre 8 10 12	B Storey
8	32112	CYFOR MALTA (40) (D) (SF) (D A Johnson) M Pipe 8 10 8.	A P McCoy
_			

as she would be, this is by far her stiffeet test. Setection: U	
5.40 VINCENT O'BRIEN COUNTY HANDICAP HURDL	E (Grade
1 - 15/22 STAR PAGE 029 (CD) LI David Aleste M Johnston 8 11 10	D Gellacher
2 (Calost BLOWNES WIND (5) (0) (P A Deat) Is Pipe 5 11 8 (7ed) 3 0-2110 MR PERCY (33) (CD) (Felix Roservalets Widow & Sord J Giffard 7 11 7	A P McCoy
3 0-210 MR PERCY (33) (CD) (Felix Roserateds Widow & Sord J Gifford 7 th 7	P Hode
4 494-20 BAPBAA BOY (BT) (CD) Gynt William N Herderson to 11 6	A Rizonald
5 F-SPOI L'OPERA (21) (Sheldt Airned Al Meldourry D Michalism 5 11 3	_A Massica
O TOSO MORFENCE (KI) (CU) (note List) Mrs. J. Pierren 7 to 18	A Democode
7 12043 NAHRAWALI (5) 83 (C F Sourcement) C L Moore 7 to 12	Batcholor (7)
8 2315 POLYDABIAS (19) (D) (M Bosse) K Baley 0 10 10	Williamoon
8 2-210 HOPDANCE PRINCE (S) (D) (Pries Clym & Leisuns) Mee V Williams 7 to 7	_\$ Kelly (7)
TO TRITE HISHAMPA (28) (CD) (M P Burks Developments) O Nicholson 8 107	_R Johnson
11 JOSSE ADVOCAT (11) @ fight Street Records N Mercia (N) 8 105	P Certain
12 33-15 SUPERIOR (186) (D) (BF) (M's 6 Lungo) L. Lungo 10 10 4	A Sapple
13 - 13502 DESERT MOUNTAIN (40) (0 BF) (Easy Mark Pales) N Calacter 5 to 4	A Hoghes B
14 22-11 F SNOW FALCON (219) (D) (Falcon Syndertal T Taufe (n) 5 to 5	C O'Dwyer
5 2311 LEGAL RIGHT (20) (Mrs.John Magner) J J Chell 5 to 5	CF 5ween
18 -8P319 RACKETBALL (3) (II) (Mrs 8 Terests N Twiston-Davies 5 to 3	.C Uovelyn
17 222 BAHAMAN KNIGHT (22) (SF) (Luceyen Stud) M Pipe 5 TO 1.	
18 4/2-02 BLESS ME SISTER (12) Phry Partners R Rowe D to 0	DO'Sulling
12 20003 TIO MAY (20 LIP Medianus) F Surry 60 8 D 0	M Renny (50)
20 2-165 NRPPER REED (19) (0) (G Poet) N Simpson 8 10 0	(Aizpusu (3)
27 10-72 SELMARTIA (28) (17) (SP) (G HUDDEN) U HUDDEN 5 10 0	_R Thomson
22 On P.P. LE IGHOURE (47) (17) (G Moore) J Navillo 7 10 0	W Marston
21 PI2161 LINE OF CONQUEST (25) (0) (Max C.A. James) R Hodges (1 to 0	B Ponel
24 2-752 TOSHBA TALK (12) (Tochina (UR) List & Ellicon () 10 (S Durack (5)
25 218/3 TOTAL SUCCESS (11) (5 Poss) T Walsh (10 6 10 D	_T P Treecy
28 1126 GUTTERIDGE (34) (CD) (BCD Steels Ltd) P Burs () 10 0.	B Feator
27 -4130 RANGER SLOAME (47) (D) (G Prima) C Piero 6 10 0	R Femant
26 2440-0 SEA GOD (PS) (McCarn Lat) M Crepmen 7 10 0	Worthington

Even allowing for the difference in ground compared to Setunday, BLOWING WIND is Even allowing for the difference in ground compared to Setunday, BLOWING WIND is still going to take a lot of stopping after the manner of his defect of Sadler's Realm and Nahrawall in Sandownth imperial Cup. Two but he was going like a winner and he strode right away once given his head after the last. Last year's winner Bernal Boy has load a mozed preparation and Tidgard has a good oftence of overturing that form with the 8b he has for just over five lengths. The right challenger had run well when edging but the front-numing Nahrawali (28b better in) for third in Newbury's Tote Gold Trophy. Advocat, four lengths behind Nahrawali at Newbury, could not be naised out, and neither could life Percy, who broke a blood vessel in that race. We Parcy's two previous wins had been here and he is very much a course specietist. Ster Rage, where of the race two years ego, continues high in the handicap. He has a reasonable pull for the 11 lengths he fin-shed behind Me Percy here in November but it is L'Opera. 25b better in for running Me Percy to a neck the following month, who has the best chance of reversing the form. Sefections BLOWING WIND

CHELTENHAM 2.00: BUDDY MARVEL, who ran

his best race so far when beating older rival Road Racer by five lengths in the Grade Two Dovecote Novices' Hurdle-over 2m on fast ground at Kempton last time, has conditions in his favour today and looks sure to run a big race. Zafarabed comes into this race unbeaten over timber but might be best on soft ground and Upgrade, who is another who is proven on fast ground in strongly-run races. the prevailing conditions.

-

2.35: BUCKHOUSE BOY, who Gysart (4th hetter of today) by 12 engths in the Grade Two Rendle sham Limited Handicap Hurdle over 3m at Kempton fast time. comes into this race on top of his form, has conditions in his favour again and looks well worth an ach-way bet. Paddy's Return, hugely impressive on soft ground in the Long Walk Hurdle over 3m 1f 110yds at Ascot in December, was a bit disappointing when beat-en by Ocean Hawk in the Premier Long Distance Hurdle over an 7f at Haydock last time but should reverse those placings here and should not mind the ground. He is the obvious danger.

3.15: GO BALLISTIC, fourth to Mr Mulligan in this race last year. looked better tuan ever when hammeriog Strong Promise in the Jim Ford Challange Cup at Wincanton last time and, with the ground drying out, looks a good each-way bet. may be a bigger danger. Of the Irish See More Business has gone from raiders, Snow Dragon is the one strength to rangth this season, but thought most likely to be suited by the King George VI Chase winner is not the most fluent of jumpers and all the form that has made him favourite for this race has been on soft ground. Dorans Pride, third in this race last year, six lengths ahead of the selection, came back to his bert last time out to win the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown but is another who is best in the mud. Others who might run a big race on the ground are: Berton Bank (second last year). Couldnt Be Better and ngton Boy.

000 3 55: FANTTIS winner of this race last year and sure to be fitter for. his second at Wincanton last time. goes welt on fast ground and should again be hard to beat. The

Cheltenham — 3.15

First show Cheltenham - 2.00

orae	C	H	Ļ	T	Horse . C N L T
aterated	4-1	4-1	9-2	10-3 .	Downto Pride 11-4 5-2 11-4 5-2
erapour	6-1	6-1	5-1	5-1	See More Bestmess7-2 7-2 7-2 7-2
alabour Frontier	7-1	0-1	7-1	6-1	Суропро 7-1 8-1 7-1 9-1
tuddy Marrel	12-1	10-1	7-1	10-1	Rough Que 9-1 10-1 9- 10-1
ity Half	10-1	10-1	11-1	12-1	Suny Boy 8-1 10-1 10-1 10-1
on County Xinne	6-1	10-1	12-1	10-1	Addington Boy 14-1 12-1 12-1 12-1
omadic	10-1	10-1	10-1	12-1	Strong Promise 14-1 14-1 18-1 12-1
pgrade	14-1	2-1	14-1	22-1	Go Batiletic 6-1 6-1 2-1 20-1
almetch	19-1	14-1	16-1	12-1	Challenger Du Lue26-1 20-1 25-1 25-1
he French Fezze	14-1	18-1	14-1	16-1	Cool Deven 25-1 20 1 25-1 20-1
now Dragon	16-1	18-1-	20-1	20-1	Banton Bank 28-1 25-1 25-1 33-1
upply & Demand	20-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	Couldn't Be Better 40-1 33-1 25-1 40-1
elge .	50-1.	50-1	86-1	33-1	Simply Dashing 33-1 40-1 33-1 50-1
ool Estate	33-1	23-1	50-1	33-1	Senor El Belmitti 40-1 40-1 88-1 50-1
obbo	50-1	50-1	59-1	50-1	Strath Royal 50-1 100-1 66-1 66-1
COME	50-1 ·	· 50-1	40-1	40-1	Indian Tracker 150-1 150-1 150-1 150-1
ent D'Acest	50-1	50-1	33-1	33-1	Yorkshire Gale 150-1 150-1 150-1 150-1
irle Green	86-1	50-1	50-1	86-1	Each-way a quarter the odds, places, 1, 2, 3
kanalog De C.	86-1	68-1	66-1	88-1	
Training Dream	50-1	50-1	06-1	88-1	Cheltenham 3.55
cother Hight	100-1	86-1	66-1	BO-1	Horse H T
wing West	88-1	68-1	100-1	100-1	Elegant Lord overs 10-11
bugh Act	100-1	68-1	66-1	100-1	Emilianover 100-30 4-1
topper Shell	100-1	100-1	150-1	150-1	Firsture 3-1 9-2 Stay in Touch 10-1 10-1
	450.4	400.4		+00.4	327 M 100CH 10-1 10-1

2-17		
Strath Royal	50-1 100-1	66-1 66-1
Indian Tracker	150-1 150-1	150-1 150-1
Yorkshire Gale	150-1 150-1	198-1 150-1
Евей-мау в фл	vier the odds, p	MOSS, 1, 2, 3
Chelte	nham	- 3.5 5
Horse		LJ
Begent Lord	OVERT	10-11
Emthinover	100-30	<u>4-1</u>
Pintur	4-1	9.2
Stay to Touch	10-	10-1
Jigtime	_16-	20-1
Griedey Gele	20-	1 20-1
Withat'	20-	20-1
Fleaking Steel	25-	25-1
Throtopic	33-	25-1
A 4 1 1		

Cheltenham - 5.05

74-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 19-1 16-1

10-1 16-1 33-1 33-1 33-1

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Chelter	rhan	n	2.3	5	į '	A.
Hortu	C	H	ı	<u>т</u>	1	<u> </u>
Packly's Return	13-8	15-8	7-4	7-4	1	Г
Outen Hawk	4-1	9-2	4-1	4-1	ı	Ħ
Buckhouse Boy	8-1	7-1	8-1	6-1	1	9
Mighty Moss	8-1	13-2	7-1	8-1	1	č
Spleadid Thynn	8-1	7-1	6-1	9-1	1	Ē
Communicate Crt	10-1	· p-1	10-1	7-1	1	Ē
Gysset	7-1	8-1	7-1	10-1	1	يَّا
Princetal	14-1	12-1	14-1	12-1	1	Ö
Priemdablp	38-1	25-1	25-1	33-1		7

Mostenstalettes 100-1 100-1 150-1 150-1 Fach ware conter the ockie, places, 1, 2, 3, 4 C . Corel N . Willem HD L . I orbeniese T . Trie

Each-way a quarter the code, pieces, 1, 2, 3 C - Coral, N - William Hill, L - Ladbroles, T - Tole

Chelte	nhai	m —	. 5.4	0
HORSE	C	N		_
Blowing Wind		11-4	11-4	_3
Legal Right	. 91	12-1	12-1	10
Вата Воу	_14-1	14-1	14-1	.14
Advopat	16-1	E-1	1B-1	14
Tidani	<u>14-1</u>	12-1	14-1	16
Mr Percy	20-1	20-1	15-1	_15
Nghrmadi	20-1	19-1	14-1	70
Ngutance Princ	201	15-1	18-1	14-
Polydomus_	20-1	15-1	19-1	15
Snow Felcon	20-1	20-1	12-1	. 15
L'Opers	22-1	25-1	25-1	25-
Ministra	25-1		20-1	20-
Recignities	20-1	14-1	26-1	20-
Star Rage	25-1	20-1	26.1	20-
Desert Mountain	28-1	28-1	28-1	25
Bahamian Knigt	X 28-1	Z 5-1	33-1	20-
Bulgarita	20-1	33-1	28-1	15-
Une Of Conque	N 33-1	33-1	33-1	39
Total Success			25-1	33-
Bless Me Stater	_40-1	28-1	40-1	25-
Indefency	40-1		33-1	33-
Misper Reed	3-1	35-1	40-1	2
Outteridge	40-1	50-1	50-1	50-
Superiop	40-1	50-1	40-1	33-
Toshiba This	50-1	66-1	50-T	85-
Le Khoumi	66-1		66-1	50-
	900.1			m

					HOUSE	C	N		
61 11	$\overline{}$			_	Blowing Wind	_94	11-4	114	3-1
Chelte	nha	m	- 4	W	Legal Right	. 91	12-1	72-1	10-1
Home	C	N	L	. т	Вата Воу	14-1	14-1	14-1	<u>.14-1</u> .
Ticksbrook	3-1	7-2	7-2	7-2	Athorat	16-1	E-1	1B-1	14-1
Edradon Plan	7-2		B-2		Tidani	N-1	12-1		16-1
	_	_	B-1		Mr Percy	20-1	20-1	15-1	15-1
Flylog instructor		_		7-1	Nghrmad	20-1	79-1	14-1	20-1
Down The Felf	14-1	_12-1	10-1	11-1	Nordance Prince		16-1	61	14-1
Huntone Larp	10-1	12-1	12-1	14-1	Polydamus	20-1	15-1	14-1	6-1
Ватиднега Воу	14-1	14-1	16-1	74-1	Snow Felcon	20-1	20-1	21	15-1
Time Wort Web	_	10-1	12-1	14-1	L'Opers	22-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Cumbrian Chall		_	20-1		Ministra	_25 <u>-1</u>	20-1	20-1	20-1
		20-1		16-1	Recipitati	_201	14-1	26-1	20-1
Indian Jodany	20-1	20-1	20-1	15-1	Star Rage	25-1	20-1_	76 L	201
Lightening Led	16-1	14-1	16-1	20-1	Desert Mountain Bahamian Kalah		28-1	28-1 33-1	.25 <u>-1</u> 20-1
Alleier Oddy	20-1	74-1	20-1	20-1	Bulgarita	20-1	<u>Z5-1</u>	28-1	15-1
Netyworf	20-1	14-1	W-1	W-1	Une Of Conques	_	33-1	33-1	33-1
Sublime Fellow	20-1	18-1	20-1	20-1	Total Success	28-1	33-1	25-1	33-1
Gm Gm Decert	25-1	25-1	20-1		Bless Me States	40-1	28-1	40-1	25-1
				20-1	Insiefence	40-1	40-1	33-1	33-1
Kibreet	20-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	Moper Reed	25-1	35-1	40-1	251
Zabedi	20-1	25-1	25-1	20-1	Outtoridge	40-1	50-1		50-1
Morstock	40-1	38-1	40-1	40-1	Superiop	40-1	50-1	40-1	33-1
Fabricator	66-1	100-1	85-1	65-1	Toshiba This	50-1	66-1	50-T	85-1
Neshville Star	150-1	150-1	150-1	150-1	Le Kheumi		100-1	66-1	_
Eachway a quest	r the o	dak, pib	cate, 1.	234	Range Steane	100-1	150-1	100-1	
C-Coral, N - Wille					See God		500-1	200-1	
- WH, IV-TH			- Amed 1	- 1023	Secti-way a querte	r the oc	ids, pla	DBG, 1, 2	3.4

Results

CHELTENHAM

2.00: 1. FRENCH HOLLY (A Thornton)
2-1 fav; 2. Twoby 6-1; 3. Cloone Bridge
3-1 18 ran. 14, 2%, if Murphy, Moddeham;
Tote: 22:70; Etol. (22:90, 22:00, DF: 25:00,
CSS: 25:35. NP. Nincok Leader, five: 23:35.
2.35: 1. ONE MAN (B Handing) 7-2; 2.
Or Royal 7-2; 3. Lord Dorost 50-1, 8 ran.
5-2 fav Ask Tom (Rth.), 4, 5. (G Richards,
Greystoke). Tote: 24:20; 21:50, 21:40, 24:00.
DF: 28:80 CSF: 21:40, 34:00.
DF: 28:80 CSF: 21:40, 34:00.
DF: 28:80 CSF: 21:40, 34:00.
DF: 28:80 CSF: 21:40, 54:00.
This color of the Color

5.06: 1. SUPER CORI (N Wilmmson) 7-1; 2. Sparky Gayle 3-1 av; 2. Monrade Forte 5-1, 14 ran. 2, 1%. (f. Los, Presteigne). Rota: 2705: 110:set: ETQ34. The: CTQ03 5.40: 1. ALEXANDER BANGUET (Mr. R Walet) 9-1; 2. Jos Nac 6-4 key; 3. Frantic: Tan 8-1, 25 ran. 2%. 7; (W Mallins, Closur-ton, Co. Carlow). Reta: \$1850; \$2.70, \$150, 2250. DF: \$2500. CSF: \$2226. Rec: \$4730. Jackpot: \$44,51420. Placepot: \$26506. Place 5: \$2020. Historic \$44,51420.

HUNTINGDON

HUNTINGDON

1.50: 1. SEZE THE DAY (Mass M Coorts) 4-1 far; 2. Weekend Worker 50-1; 3. Current Speach 14-1; 4. Bigging 9-1 22 rats. 8, 1%, (M Coords), Waymouth, Total 56-40; Flop, 621/0. Flor 6336 DF; 53850, CSP, 622250 Bitset; 5244557 This not won. NR: Vision of Preddom.
2.30: 1. OLD ROUVEL, (D Galagher) 1-2 far; 2. Lord Richfield 9-1; 2. Filecot 2-1 far rat. 1%, 2½. (D Murray Smith, Upper Lambourn), Total 621/0; Flog 2240, 6250, DF; 6730, CSP; 5385, This; (3390, 2.55: 1. SAMEMOPRELIO (J Goldstein) 7-4 far; 2. Harrdy Weether 14-1; 3. Bay Laugh 2-1 10 rat. 1. 5; (N Tieston-Quales, Chalterham), Total 6230; 5120, 5450; 5160, DP; 23390, GSP; 52445, Tricest: \$5002. This: Fision-Cass. NR: Tellicherry.

3.25: 1. DISTANT STORM (Max E J. Jones) 9-2; 2. Lotachberg Express 3-1 fav. 3. Poty Amarashas 100-30, 7 ras. Nt. 5, 6. Liewellyn, Bergoed). Tote: (3.00; £180, £140, £15

NEWTON ABBOT

Place 6: 225.92 Piece 5: CB60.

NEWTON ABBOT

1.56: 1. MISS DISKIN (B Powel) 5-2 fav.

2. Banny Hill Lad 7-2; 3. Space Cappa
20-1 7 ran. 8: 8: (R Buckler). Tota: E180: C140, C190. DF: £580: CSF: £142;

2.25: 1. COOL AS A CUCUMBER (J R Kavangar) evers fav; 2. Pool Sick: 13-2;

3. Karldeiigh Men 4-1.7 ran. 8: 2*, (I) Sherwood). Tota: £200; £260; £150. DF: £340;

CSF: £211. NF. Layruntheline.

3.05: 1. BLUE BLAZER (J Proof) 5-2; 2. Bronhallow 33-1; 3. Remember Star 66-1; 13 ran. 6-15 tav Cellic Park. 5: 11, (R Froet). Inter £400; £120. £170. £2740. DF: £5400.

CSF: £584. Tric. £2-520 (part word).

3.45: 1. COMEDY GAYLE (M: I Widd-combe) 7-2; 2. Ticket to The Moon 4-1; 3. True Fortame 13-6 fav 13 ran. 2; 25, (Ms. See Wilcock). Tota: £530; £220. £120. £130.

4.20: 1. OEFENDTHEREALM (J Frost). 6-1; 2. Normalar's Convinced 25-1; 3. Pellardam Boy 2-5 fav. 7 ran. 12. 4 (R Frost). Rota: £560; £230. £130. DF: £300. £250; £200. £300. CSF: £690; £220. £200. £300. £

YPERION
4.30 Sublime Fellow
5.05 Jack Doyle
5.40 Barna Boy

Bristol, Birmingham and London, Paddington) 2m. ADMISSION: Sold out.

© LEADING FESTIVAL TRAINERS: M Pipe —8 winners from 15 runners gives a success ratio of 6.7%; O Nicholson 7 from 71 (3.9%); E O'Grady 4 from 19 (211%); R Ainer 2 from 8 (25%).

LEADING FESTIVAL JOCKEYS: R Dummoody S wirs from 46 (12.2%); C Swam 8 from 62 (9.7%); N Williamson 5 from 32 (15.6%); A P McCoy 4 from 35 (11.4%).
● FAVOURITES: 203 wins in 531 races (38.2%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Real Estate, Swing West (200); Desert Mountain (540).

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E	2.00	ELITE RACING CLUB TRIUMPH HURDLE (Grade 1) (CLASS A) £45,000 4YO 2m 17	C4
1		ANOTHER NIGHT (5) (D) (Sunser Partnersho) P Murphy 11 0	
Ź	mPn	BUDDY MARVEL (19) (D) (R Option) C Sherwood 11 0	P Carbon
3	2F ft	CITY HALL (40) (D) (Mis R F Key & Mis V Ward) Mrs V Ward 11 0.	R Thorsto
i i		COPPER SHELL (40) (Gallagher Equine) Mrs L Jewell 11 0	
5	21	DARAPOLEI 653 (J.P.McMonuel A.P.OPrico 60 11 0	CFS
6	121	IRON COUNTY XMAS (38) (fron County Farms) D Weld (in) 11 0	N WEImmout
,	41	KRIS GREEN (26) (P M Can) L Lungo 11 0	R Supple
0	611	NOMADIC (11) (D P Sherkey) N Meads (M) 11 Q.	.R Durarood
9	गर्ग	FIAINBOW FRONTIER (83) (C D Smith) M Pipe ti 0.	A P McCo
10	ĦΕ		C Nieuri
T		REAL ESTATE (19) (D) (Mrs J Mould) O Nicholson 11 0	R Johnson 2
23	TIZ		P Nha
13			
×	1651 F	SCOSS (25) (M A Ryard T Watch (Atl 11 O	Mr A Wate
6	65		Worthington
7	12		FTM
17	115	SUPPLY AND DEMAND (19) (D) (BP) (Actur) G L Moore 11 0	A Fazgerak
18	2131	SWING WEST (33) (D) (BF) (N Glynn) P Eccles 11 11	O Byrme E
19	28757	THE PREMICH FURZE (21) (CD) (J Erms & Perman) M Pipe N O	
30	32.04	TOUGH ACT (40) (D) (Mrs R Doe) Mrs A Petrett 11 0	
27	132	TYROLEAN DREAM DISS (P Heath) M Tomplets 11 0	-A HARTER
22			
23	111		
24 25	11122	AMITTGE (96) (D) (P Lake H Lake) M Pipe 10 6 VENT D'AOUT (77) (D) (BF) (Elle Recing Cité) M Pipe 10 6	I Francis
26	1100.23	WONTCOSTALCTBUT (21) (Wontcostelot Partnership) M Wildreson to D.	J CHAIR
ا	03023	- 26 declared -	W
RE	TTING-	4-1 Zatoratori, 8-1 Daranour, 9-1 Rainbow Frontier, 10-1 from County Xm	25. 12-1 Bud

BETTING: 4-1 Zalarabad, 8-1 Barapour, 9-1 Rainbow Frontier, 10-1 Iron County Xmas, 12-1 Br dy Manvel, City Hall, Normadic, 14-1 Rainwatch, Upgrade, 20-1 Snow Dragon, The French Fax 25-1 Real Estate, Supply And Dentand, 50-1 others 1997 Commanche Court, 4 tt d N Williamson 9-1 (T Watch M 28 ran

FORM GUIDE.

ZAFARABAD looks in a different league to his 25 male, it has been easy for him so far with wins at Kempton, on this course and at Newbury, and he was powering over Rainwatch (two wins in the mad) at Newbury when that rival fell at the test. Devid Nicholson rates him up there with his very best hunders. Buildly Mannel has looked pacey at Donastian him up there with his very best hunders. Buildly Mannel has looked pacey at Donastian him up there with his very best hunders. Buildly Mannel has looked pacey at Donastian him to the test of the read of the product of the product of the product of the product of the read with the rest of the ride with Tony McCoy aboard Rainbow Frontier, who has his first run for Martin Pipe after thour wins for Auten Othere in the rand - something his not going to get today. The French Furze trotted up here in November and Pipe would love nothing better than to give Lower a Festival winner. Richard Dunwoody is at his best holding together these young hunders and Normadic looks sure to be there for Demick Weld after the two who with Dunwoody aboard. Darapour and Charlie Swan will have a following after the Flat wint. A winner at Leopardstown on his second hundes start, his form was given a lovely boost when the second fron County Kreas, who meets Darapour on file better terms, won by 15 lengths at Leopardstown next time. FORM GUIDE

	2.35	BONUSPRINT STAYERS HURDLE (Grade 1) C41 (CLASS A) £85,000 added 3m 110yds
łı	F21411	BUICKHOUSE BOY (19) (5) (Beetry Boys) O Nicholson 9 11 10
2	11-210	COMMANCHE COURT (33) (C) (D'F Desmond) T Walsh (ki) 5 11 10
3	F-mF0	FRIENDSHIP (40) (T BenfeldAV Brown) N Henderson 0 11 TO
l à	111212	CIYSART (19) (CO) (BIF) (Mrs R Cobbold) M Pipe 8 11 10 A P McCoy 8
5	22-213	MIGHTY MGSS (54) (CD) (K Hutsby) D Nicholson 7 ft 10
6	00-221	DCEAN HAWK (\$4) (D) (M Archer/J Broadhurst) N Twiston-Daves 6 11 10C Liennellyn
7	1-2512	PADDY'S RETURN (S4) (C) (D) (BF) (P O'Donnell) F Murphy 6 11 10 N Williamson
8	-24124	PRINCEPUL (40) (C) (R Hichris) Mrs J Physian 7 Ti TU
9	-61171	SPLENDID THYNE (26) (J Galvanori) T Cesty () 11 10 W Maraton
١ -		- 9 declared -
BE	TTING:	7-4 Paddy's Return, 4-1 Ocean Hook, 7-1 Mighty Mose, 0-1 Buckhouse Boy, Gysart, Spien-
-	T	48 1 Commercine Court 44-1 Princetol 30-1 Friendship

Return looked right for today's task when he bolled home from Prickvell at Ascot in December. That impressive win was gained in the mud but Paddy's Return is probably event better on this surface. Ocean Howk is a tough sort who has won plenty of risces on fast ground, so he is going to be a hard to best. So game again when besters in head by Majorty Moses here in January, he meast the Nicholann horse on 6th bester sems. Majory Majorty Moses was squeezed for room at Haydock and is cartainly better than the 29-length defict with Ocean Hawk and Paddy's Return suggests. Besichouse Boy is a progressive handcapper-with wins at Sendown and Kempton last month, He best Gystert on fast ground at Kempton last time, but this pair will need to Improve again and be true stayers to best the two principals. Commanche Court, winner of the Titumph Hurdel least year, is the derk home in the race, having never run beyond two miles. Besten with a big weight at Newhury last time, this race rannly goes to a suspect stayer. Priendarish was besten by Seubchouse Boy at Sandown last time and M Sib worse off here, while Princeful is another with a tough task after finishing 10 lengths befand Buckhouse Boy at Sandown But in truth these handicappers cannot be expected to threaten Paddy's Return or Ocean Hawk, Splandid Thyne is one of the most progressive handicappers but Terry Casey's change has never won on ground he is tikely to encounter today.

Selection: PADDY'S RETURN

П		3.55	CHRISTIES FOXHUNTERS CHASE (CLASS B) 225,000 added 3m 2f 110yds	C4
	1	221-15	ARDERENMAN (36) (C C Bennett) J Porter 11 12 0	Mr R Waldey
	2	U-8211	DENGTELD (26) (McCorold) C McStatney (4) 7 12 0	ir i Bostumen
•	3	11-11	EARTHMOVER (13) (D) (R M Penny) R Barber 7 (20	Mr J Throad
	4	TIETH	ELEGANT LORD (18) (CD) LI P MEMARINE) E BOATE (6) 10 10 0	Mr E Bolger
	5	2F1-22	FANTUS (35) (CD) (J.A. Kaghley) A Berber 11 20	Mr T laterial
•	6	P/11-3	FLASHING STEEL (SE) (C) (C) Haughey J Mariem (M) 12 120	Mr P Feriton
£	7	2-13h	STAY IN TOUCH (18) (5 Brazin) J Costello (+) 8 12 0	Mr O Contains
,	8		TINOTOPS (40) (C) (D) (R H H Targett) Mrs R Victory E 120	
1	8	20-12	WEBAR (39) (W Flood) W Flood (1) 8 12 0	MIC.mi
•	10	111-4	GRANGEY GALE (19) (FI M Phillips) M. Jackson 9 11 9	A Whole
•	11	1/111-	JEGTENE (355) (J Hughes) J Hughes 8 11 9	M Brackume
1			= 11 dachred =	

= 11 declared =

BETTING: 5-4 Elegant Lond, 4-1 Earthcover, 9-2 Ferman, 10-1 Stay in Reach, 14-1 Jigtime, Withing, 16-1 Grinley Gele, 25-1 Flambling Steel, 33-1 Thoologis, 50-1 others
1997: Fants to 12 to Mr. T Machell 10-1 (Fl Barbert is ran
FORM GUIDE.

Ferman and ELEGANT LORID have dominated this race since 1995, when the high-brained horse, starting hot favourise, traded in third behind Flotsard Barberta 20-length winner, Fantse missed the whole of 1996, which left Elegant Lord to justify fevourisem at the expenses of Cool Derm and Kerry Orchde, and it was Elegant Lord who were absent less year when -Fantse came back with a game defect of Cab On Tanget, Now an 11-year-old, Fantse has hot two runs this year to put him apol on. He overcome ground faster than he cares for 12 months 30s, but with it drying out again contribins should be much more in throur of the year younger Elegant Lord, He has won all three starts in Ireland this season, two point-or-points and a fundar chase at Leopardstown, where he two-length deleas of previous winner Willeas given no real indication of his supervisity. Willian that won he previous race on heavy ground at Fairythouse, beating Lucky Town and Stay in Rouch a length ous race on heavy ground at Fairyhouse, beating Lucky Town and Sasy in Youch as panyur and a half and helf a length. Apart from being a stone better in Stay in Youch has gone on to with his next two starts. He looks a darger, but the home side are well represented by Earthmover, while Scottlet mare Jigtims, unbeated in all four hunter classes, will give a good account of horself it is difficult to know whether it is Fantus or Earthmover who is Fichard Barber's main hope. Both look to know an equal chance, because if it was not for a fall first time out this season Earthmover would be unbeaten in his last 10 starts and is open to improvement.

Selection: ELEGANT LORD

T	4 30	CHELTENHAM GRAND ANNUAL HAND (CLASS B) £35,000 added 2m 110yds	ICAP CHASI
Ľ	7.00	(CLASS B) £35,000 added 2m 110yds	
1	TOTAL	CUMERIAN CHALLENGE (40) (D) (Cumbries Industrals) T Emissis	y 8 11 10 1 W/m
2	W3-20	TIME WON'T WAIT (47) (ID) (Old Barks Pertnership) R Philips 8 Tt 7	R Democod
3	326 W.	FLYING INSTRUCTOR (19) (D) (Lady Lyell) P Webber 0 11 7	A McCarth
4	1-354	RODAN JOCKEY (95) (D) (S M Marce) M Pipe 0 ft 7	C Next
5	P-411	EDREDON BLEU (26) (0) (Jim Leme) Mas H Krapt 6 11 0	AP MoCo
0	215-3	LIGHTENING LAD (12) (D) (Flichard Potestort) J King to 11 5	W Manufa
7	0-010F	NEREET (19) (CD) (Terry Warrer) P Hobbs 11 11 4	
6	-35532	DOWN THE FELL (47) (D) (44's S Johnson) J H Johnson 9 11 U	
	2-02	MISTER COOY (13) (CO) (68) (MS R M HB) J King to 10 8	
10	-RUES	HURRICANE LAMP (SQ (D BF) SAr & Max F Welch (Fi Bland) D Nicholso	47100_RThomto
Ħ	131F54	GREEN GREEN DESERT (16) (D) (D C Marcer) O Sharwood 7 10 0.	P Carberr
1	· 14302	SUBLAKE FELLOW (19) (D) (R McGrath) N Handerson () 10 5	
	-23:23	BARNAGEERA BOY (54) (D) (EF) (Ms C S Wash) W Jeris 8 to 4	C Liennity
	1-11/1	TICHEROOK (15) (D) (R Williams) K Balley 6 to 5 (3m)	N W######
10	21-224	NATISARII (12) (D) (A Packet) P Rich 10 10 1	A C-1951A (
10	253332	ZARADI (21) (D) (Lady Harral D Nichobor 0 10 0	
7	F/F804	FABRICATOR (37) (0) (James Clements) Mrs A Neughan & 10 0	C C'Day
18	221463	MORSTOCK (21) (D) (Ats M Farbeirs) R Hodges 8 to 11	7 Descorab
_		NASHYILLE STAR (19) (D) (Robin Methen) R Matter 7 to 0	
16		that Tour underlan: Zahard Dar 1781; Esternatur Dat 1781; Mountain Oct 1881	About the Control of

Adhieum; 10st. Trus weights: Zahad Ber 130, Fateroster Ber 130, Monstock 9st 190, Neinhelle Sar &r. 40. BETTING: 5-2 Edinador Blau, 4-1 Tidebrook, 8-1 Barosseur Boy, 13-1 Time Worth Well, Hurricane Larey, Nelysant, 14-1 Cambrian Chellerge, Klürevs, Mister Oddy, Sublime Fellow, 10-1 others 1897: Unde Emie 12 ft. 4 G Bradley 20-1 (J. RecGerald) 16 ran

FORM GUIDE
Plenty of these have very respectable clarars, and lour against the field are Ednadon Bleu, Flying instructor, Down The Fell and TIDEBROOK. French import Edvadon Bleu, at six the baby of the field and the one with more scope than most, has really come to himself with wins at Leicester. Kempton and Sandown, getting better with each run. One stight blemsh may be that those wine were all on right-hand tracks, and he had jumped markedly right throughout at Chepatow (left hand. Bu boday) that time out. Flying instructs was a good fourth in last years Arkie and was also going well when he hall at Airtree. This could be his time of year and he is in good heart at present, whining impressively at Haydock and being unlucky not to follow up at Newbury. He latest effort was a good that behind in-form pair Even Flow and Morrate Forts over two and a half miles at heydock and he seems to prefer this better ground, Down The Fell carrie good at Airtree last year and, having run so well against Viking Flegahip (level weights) and Lond Doroet (rec 10h) on soft ground at Wetherby over Christmas, and just missed out to Cumbrian Challenge

5 22:23 MIGHTY MOSS (54) (CD) K Husbyl D Michalon 6 00:21 OCEAN HAMK (34) (D) (M ANDHI Broadhursh 7 1:525 PADDY'S RETURN (54) (C) (RB) (6) O'Domel 8 2024 PRINCEFUL (40) (C) (R Hichard Mrs J Priman 7 9 61111 SPLENDIO TRYNE (35) (J Galvanon) T Casy (1) — 9 detained — 9 detained — 9 detained — 10 frame 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	I Twistan-Daves 6 11 10
Hexham	6 P-5-8U PATTER MERCHANT (M) 9 TI 3 7 SOUPO PUBLIC WAY (S) 8 TI 3 8 050 POWDER PRIME (S) 7 TO T
HYPERION 2.25 Centaur Express 3.00 Sniper 3.35 Storm Call 4.15 Redsway 4.50 Peter 5.25 What Jim Wants	BETTING: 11-8 Purewatur, 2-1 Continue Exp 8-1 Emperor's Magic, 2-1 Powder Print; 3.00 HANDICAP CHASE £4,000 added 2m 4f 110)
GOING: Soft (Heavy in places) Left-hand undering course Run-on of 250yd Anheisson: Can Ex-Paddock Dr. (CAPs DR. CAR PARIX: Free FEATING JOCKEYS: R Guest 33-65 (SISS), M Berstey 12-36 (SISS), FRANCIA FOR JOSEPH R Guest 13-65 (SISS), M Berstey 12-36 (SISS), FRANCIA FOR JOSEPH R GUEST INC. B. MCCREED FRET TIME: Broad Outlook (SISS), Matachon (KIS), Santa Sarbara (KIS).	1 CUC1 DESERT BRAVE (12) 61 10 2 SSES DAMBYS GORSE (12) 60 6 8 3 UNIF 2 PERM LEADER (17) 61 15 4 SIPUL STACE PROMIT (8) 11 13 5 PP-03 SANON PONT (8) 11 11 1 5 PS-23 POTATO MAN (12) (20) 2 10 8 SP-23 SMBPR (12) (20) 7 10 7 8 SP-23 SMBPR (12) 6 10 6
2.25 THREE PEES IN A POD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) \$4,200 2m 110yds 1 5201 CENTAUR EXPRESS (A) (II) 61 78 10	10 5-3/10 CORRUELI (59 (C) 0 106
Lingfield	6 1:00 STUTESTICAN (21) (C) 6:08 6:05 MOGNI (29) (CD) (EF) 5:107 6:55:00 INVOCATION (TI) (CD) 1:105 7:500 FAMCY (CESON) (CD) 6:101

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2 CEPP BROAD OUTLOOK (\$) (\$) (\$) (\$) (\$) 11 12 _ M N Marghton B
3 902220 HOBBS CHOICE (33) (CO) 5 11 10 N Hamily (1)
4 5/3-PO MADGE MCSPLASH (9) 6 115E Calleghan
5 (6081 STORM CALL (6) (7) 7 11 3 (6ec) (Jardin (3)
6 AUGO FERST BLTHE FIELD (DES) (0) 7 11 1 Michael Brevens
7 PERSI FAUSTHLUCE LAUT (898) D D TIT Hogg [5]
8 02223P CHE STOP (7) 510 9 5 Zerior
9 -DOPP MOST WARTED (16) (D) 5 TO 5 W Dowling
1) COOPE ALLEMENT (SO) () 108 L Cooper (5)
11 93/004 DRUMEDONNA (4) 0 106 8 Centum 8
12 OF6655 MEADOWLECK (55) 8 El 0 F Leeby
13 -000PD CEEJRYELL (30) 5 100 FI McGrath
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Mendowleck Set 7th, Conjugal 2nd 6th.
WETTENG: 3-2 Stores Call, 7-2 Califol March, Hoteles Christe, 7-1
One Stop, 6-1 Drumdowns, 12-1 Mexico McSphade, 14-1 others
4.15 NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E)
£3.000 added 3m
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2 6000 BRANDSEY MANSTER (5) 7 11 3 9 Gradus (5)

Lingfield	
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GOOMS Standard. STALLS: 9, the - Country of the Cou 1.50 AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP DIV 1 (CLASS F) £2,500 added 1m 3400 FALLEI TO HIT (#3) (C) 5 11 7 to 1 7 to

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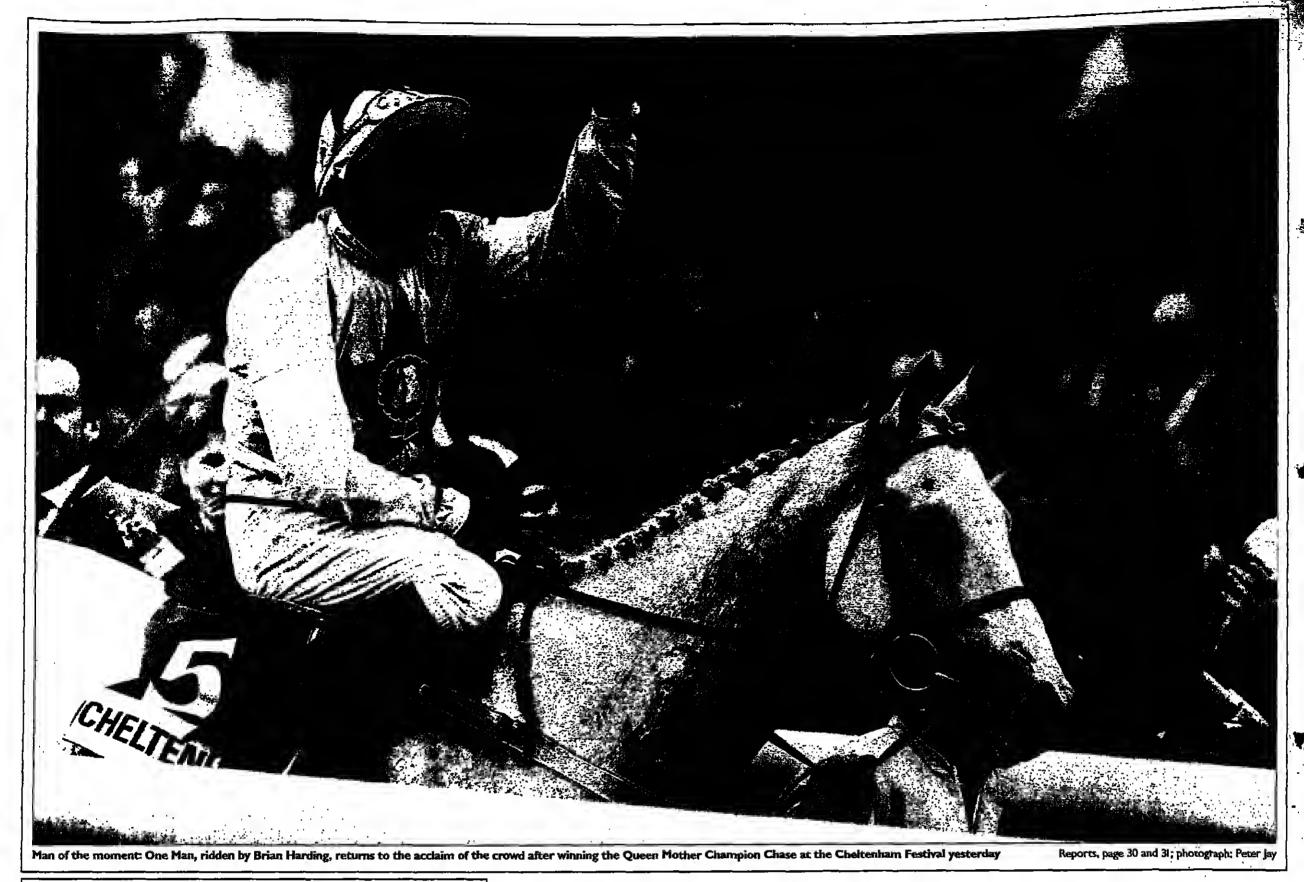
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ï	0.010	VERION VENTURE (17) TO TO 8 Mr Y Coopen (7) 1
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D	30.0	KASE ALHARIA (10) (D) (BF) 5 TO 1 Miles FI Clark
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V	000-40	SAKHAROV (25) 9 3 ft Mr R. Fordatal (7)
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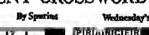
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3	57(5)	NORTS DEED (22) (CO) 58 EL	
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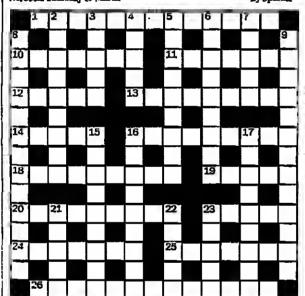
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15 declared —
SETTING: 7-2 Just Losi, 9-4 hor's Deed, Contrary Mary, 6-1 Mei- lors, 7-1 Soviet Cressies, 6-4 Stoppes Brow, 18-1 others
3.25 HANDICAP (CLASS D) 25,000 added 5f
1 . COST POSO MAGIC (10) (C) (D) 6 100 T Ryes 6
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Now make a few and a series of the series of

5 4-503 LADOTREME (S) (CD) (67) 455	5 4-203 LI DOYNOME RIS [CD] 4-57	_		
3 SETTING: 5-2 Krystain Man. 3-7 Myretheal, 4-1 Mise in Status, 7-1 La Depretas, 5-1 Robot Margin, 16-1 Capatan Cared, 4-1 others 4-D.S. CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) S. 23-000 addied 6-f 1 S-433 BASTERIU PROPERTS (16) (0) 5-100	### SETTING: \$-2 Krystail liam, 3-7 Krystail liam,	1	6 4624 LA DOTENHO (5) (CD) 457	1 CES-10 AMAGOUR (22) (CD) 592
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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD





American person considered for selection by independent manufacturer

10 Arm in brace, having suffered injury (7) Where old Italians were buried, under the moun-

12 Girl with stony heart (5) Liquid gum application?

Member of secret society getting staff to accept note

Run of lock for batsman?

18 Give wrong directions, af-

ter initial failure of compars? (9) Desire old soldier has to follow commander (5)

Characters from Perth make out in Eurodisney, for instance (5,4) Travelling light, heading for Sydney next? (5)
Paperwork involved in re- 8

turning a DSS remittance initially maddens one (7) Pungent compound produced by American doctor, une used to coat

Top actresses seen in role of Penthesilea? (7.6)

DOWN Bloom - character taken

from Greek mythology (9) Make one foreign article which contains it (5)
Heat unit originally tested 22 on Channel Island (5)

Not sensible to have recipe printed in "bold"? Itchy palm possibly associ-ated with flabbiness? (9) Italian city that is besieged by Poles should lead to an-

swer (5) Living quarters in settle-ment (13)

Bat seen late in the evening? (13) Rude man is jostling child

care assistant (9) 16 Procedure which may be ट्या (9)

Humorous clergyman ap-pearing in a bow? (9) Home from home, per-haps, for English cricket team supported by the French (5)

Village artist one's seen in Knala Lumpur (5) Hesitant, vaguely idiomatic "ciao", perhaps, taking leave? (5)

Middlesbrough win the race * to sign troubled Gascoigne

Football

By Alan Nixon

MIDDLESBROUGH are to unveil Paul Gascoigne as their new £3m signing today after secret talks over the last 48 hours.

The Rangers and England midfielder is set to join Bryan Robson's promotion-chasing team and Coca-Cola Cup finalists. He could make an early appearance, even possibly against Norwich on Sunday.

The transfer fee is based on a down payment with a large proportion made up in appear-

because of Gazza's injury probwould let their wayward star go. lems. Gascoigne has been troubled recently by a calf strain and a hamstring injury at Rangers with reports that he has also had a stomach problem.

coigne his England squad place on Monday when Glenn Hoddle also gave him a warning about his fading World Cup chances. Since that decision talks between Gascoigne's agent, Mel Stein, and Middlesbrough have been stepped up. Stein had been at Middlesat a secret location in Teesside last night awaiting a press conference at The Riverside today. Robson is a close friend of

Gascoigne was believed to be

Gascoigne and feels his influ-Those handicaps cost Gasence can bring out the best of him this season and beyond. Palace's prospective owner, Mark Goldberg, will be disappointed at missing out on a high profile target with Gascoigne

preferring to pick up his career in the Nationwide First Division. The move south could not

brough last week where news have come a better time. Gasbroke of a deal with Crystal coigne was yesterday given a repetition will result in very se-Palace, confirming that Rangers "very severe warning" for his rious consequences."

flute-playing mime during Rangers' Old Firm New Year match with Celtic. But the Scottish Foothall Association decided not to impose a financial punishment as Gascoigne was heavily fined by his club.

Celtic had written to the SFA complaining about Gascoigne's actions and asked them to investigate. The SFA deputy chief executive, Bill Richardson, confirmed yesterday. "The executive committee have given the player a very severe warning that this conduct must not occur again. He has been left in no doubt that a

Stein made it clear at the time that the incident occurred when Gascoigne was being taunted about his private life. According to Tony Higgins, the secretary of the Scottish Players Union, barracking from supporters has reached an all-time high.

"Basically the SFA have made it clear that will take it very seriously when players make gestures," he said. "That's how the police view it as well.

"Fans have a duty to behave themselves and be aware of their actions. But I believe the level of abuse from supporters to players is higher than ever." More football, page 28

Lee's suffering 'minor' compared with Swales'

FRANCIS LEE received only a taste of the treatment that drove the late Peter Swales out of Manchester City, according to the former Maine Road director Chris Muir, who stood shoulder to shoulder with his friend Swales as the campaign to bring Lee to power raged for months in 1993-94.

"That campaign, in my view, killed Peter Swales in the end," Muir said. "If Lee thinks he's had

it's just chicken feed to what Peter Swales had to endure." Lee quit as chairman on

Monday claiming the abuse it's hard." from angry fans and pressure on. his private and business life had forced him out. Lee's wife, Gill, claims their lives had become

their family. She said: "It gets power four years ago. to you in the end; you say you don't listen or read about it, but

However, Muir, now a director of Blackpool and a retired businessman, says he saw

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it bad over the past few weeks, hell and the abuse had upset campaign that brought Lee to He added: "Compared to

what Peter had to contend with this has been nothing. What happened to Peter was a disgrace, what Francis Lee has had to cope with is minor.

When the campaign to oust

Peter was at its height, fans got into the nursing home where his mother was being looked after and caused trouble. His home was attacked, and fans spat in the face of his wife Brenda when she was out shopping."

Both Lee and the "Forward with Franny" group disassociated themselves with, and condemned, the abuse Swales suffered befure Lee took control in February 1994.

